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HISTORY
TWELVE
REMARKABLE
WOMEN
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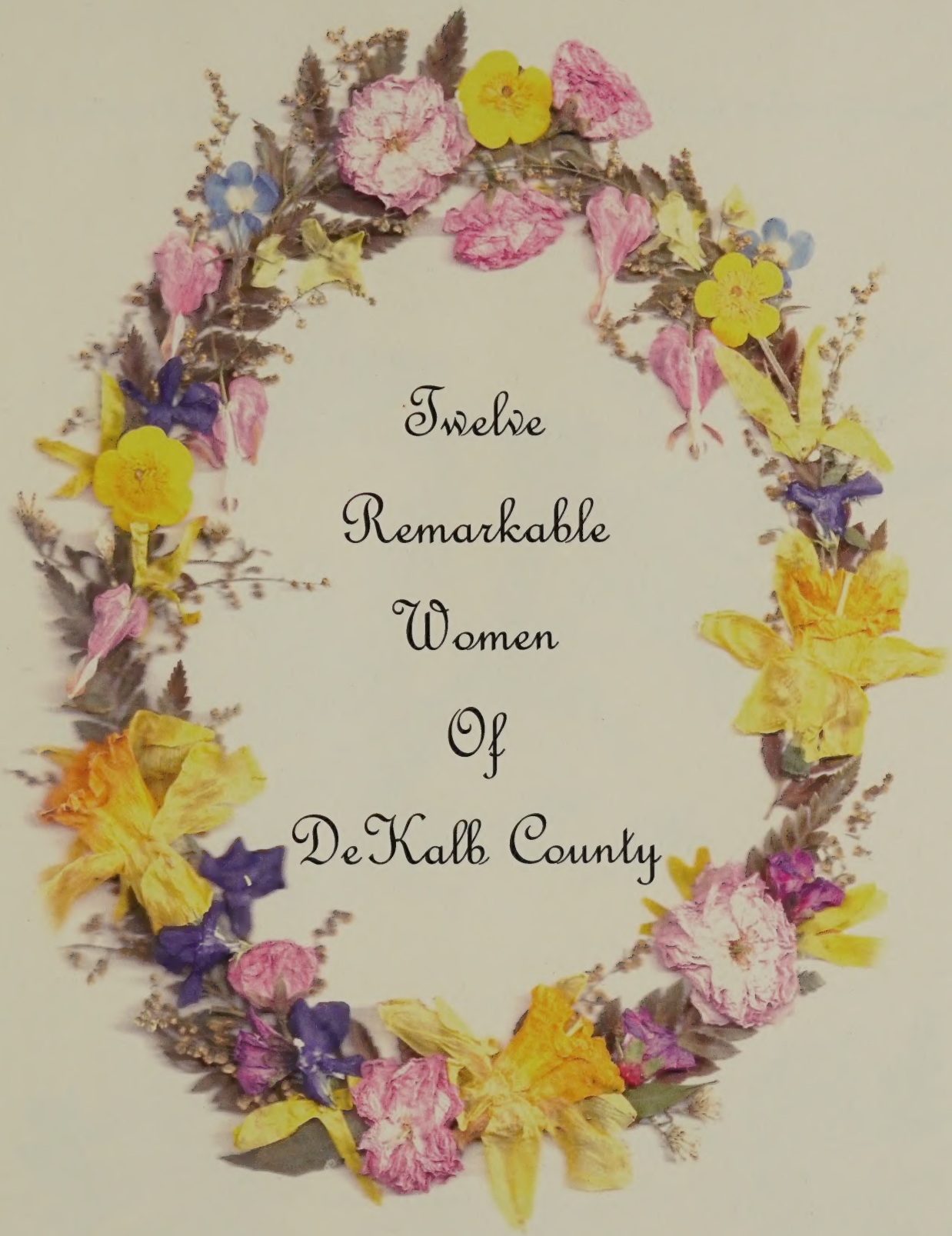

Twelve Remarkable Women Of DeKalb County

Sharon Zee Zonker

All floral designs are comprised
of flowers from my garden.
They were pressed and arranged
in "bouquets" appropriate
for each remarkable woman.

Twelve Remarkable Women of DeKalb County

By

Sharon Zee Zonker

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Auburn, Indiana

2010

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In addition to these housed treasures, thanks must be given to those who today carry on the collecting and preserving of such treasures. Roz Wells, Lucy Funk, Terri Gorney, Lina Zerkle, John Martin Smith, Bob Wilder, and Kenneth Warstler.

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Quilt Block Match...Answers.. A=McIntosh B=Davis C=Shoemaker D=Brechbill E=Sheffer F=Fanning G=Mott H=Hine I=Willis J=Leasure K=Swarts L=Eckhart

Twelve Remarkable Women of DeKalb County

Is Dedicated to

The Twelve Remarkable Women in my Life

Vetta Wilson Gordon

Jeannie Gordon Zee

Doris Marie Zee

Martha Zee Diller

Cathy Zee Furnal

Beth Zonker Friskney

Callie Britton Zonker

Helen McNeill

Elizabeth Harp

Doris Hess

Mary Welch

Brenda Papadakis

Sharon Zee Zonker

Twelve Remarkable Women of DeKalb County

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DR. LIDA LEASURE 1850-1933

The first woman to be elected to public office in Indiana.

John and Lida Leasure had to have been a very interesting couple during their adult life in Auburn. John,a prominent businessman, and Lida, the educator and physician, were well known by everyone in the area. Together they advanced the business and educational aspects of not only Auburn but the county as well. John became known as "Groundhog John" as he kept live groundhogs at the hardware store he owned, and let them predict the weather for the farmers. Lida was an exceptional educator beginning as a teacher in local schools quickly advancing to the superintendent of the county schools. Lida was known for her great intellect while John was recognized as a wise businessman. One of Lida's greatest accomplishments was when she worked alongside Charles Eckhart in leading the way for the construction of the library.

Lida was born in Decatur County, Indiana to Jonathan and Mary (Hood) Powers in September 1850. She attended Spring Hill Academy in that community, and at the age of 20 went to Terre Haute and attended the Indiana State Normal School. Upon graduation, Lida began her teaching career in Marshall, Illinois. In 1878, Lida became a teacher in the Auburn High School. Soon after, Lida was chosen superintendent of the public schools in Auburn. While living here, Lida met John Leasure and the two married in December of 1880.

Lida continued teaching in Auburn after her marriage, but in 1882 she decided she wanted to become a doctor. She went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. This had to be a struggle for her as she had just given birth to her first child, Flossie, in 1881. She graduated with her class and returned to Auburn to practice her new profession. She gave birth to a second child, John Kent, in 1891. A year later, Dr. Leasure took her practice to Angola. She continued to practice in that community until 1903 ,when she once again returned to Auburn. Her husband, John, had become a partner in the

Auburn City Hardware and with it the increased pressure of running the business required more of his time and effort in the Auburn community.

Upon her return to Auburn, Dr. Leasure went back into educational work. She became the principal of Riley School for two years and taught for a year in the high school. In June, 1911 without any campaigning on her part, Dr. Leasure was elected to the position of DeKalb County Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Leasure had not sought this position, but gave her consent to this election when she was notified of the number of the county's influential trustees who supported her nomination. The Indiana Legislature elected her to a four-year term, but by Legislative enactment her term was extended to 1917. With this election, Dr. Leasure became the first woman to be elected to a public office in the state of Indiana. Within weeks of this election, a suit to oust her was filed by a group of trustees stating that Dr. Leasure did not have correct teaching license to hold the position. Judge Frank Powers threw the case out of court on the basis that the trustees were not the correct entity to file such a suit. It was further stated that Lida did hold the correct license.

Superintendent of DeKalb County Schools. First elected woman in Indiana.

In the same year of her election, 1911, Lida participated in an Art Show at the Eckhart Library. The Ladies Literary Club announced that Dr. Leasure had a "beautiful individual exhibit."

Dr. Leasure became the ultimate" multi-tasker" of her time. She was a wife, mother of two, school superintendent, artist, and civic minded participant not to mention doctor.

Lida was a member of the Ladies" Literary Club and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union as well as an active member of the Presbyterian Church. She belonged to the Reading Room Society along with S. B. Johnston, F.S. Blattner, Charles Eckhart, and M.A. Ehlers. The Auburn Newspaper wrote this of Lida, "Dr. Leasure is one of Auburn's public spirited and best beloved ladies, an honor to the city and community in which she lives. She is one of the two charter members of the library board, Mr. Eckhart being the other."

Workers take a break during construction of the Eckhart Public Library

Dr. Leasure often delivered lectures or essays to the Ladies Literary Club. One lecture that was of particular note was her 1898 "Flotsom and Jetsam". While this is a nautical term for waste thrown overboard, it can also be a term for the discarded or forgotten humans such as the homeless living in an urban environment. Lida dealt with this social issue in a "most forcible manner for over an hour". The concern for these people had long been of interest to Dr. Leasure. The club ladies felt that she "seemed to put more soul, more earnest and more enthusiasm in her language than ever before". The Club was moved by her clear reasoning and sound conclusions. At yet another Ladies Literary Club meeting, Dr. Leasure presented an essay which she entitled, "The Social Evil". It was so well received by the members that they wanted to invite the public to hear her concerns. A meeting was held at the Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth Willis presided at this meeting. The Ladies Literary Club members served as ushers as a huge crowd gathered in the church to listen to Dr. Leasure. Her thoughts contained the feelings of immoral tendencies she was witnessing at this time. She urged parents to watch their children; who they associate with, what they read, and what amusements they seek. She warned that where "sin has been committed, it is likely to cast woman out and let man stand as high as before". During Lida's talk, she became quite impassioned over this injustice. The audience responded many times with applause. Certainly Dr. Leasure , with her feelings about social injustice as it dealt with the poor and homeless as well as women's issues ,made quite an impact on the DeKalb County community.

The Ladies Literary Club celebrated their 28th Anniversary in 1910 at Lida and John's home at 350 West Seventh Street. The Club members and guests enjoyed their lovely home and a four course banquet. The first course was fruits, second course was individual chicken pies, meatloaf, potato

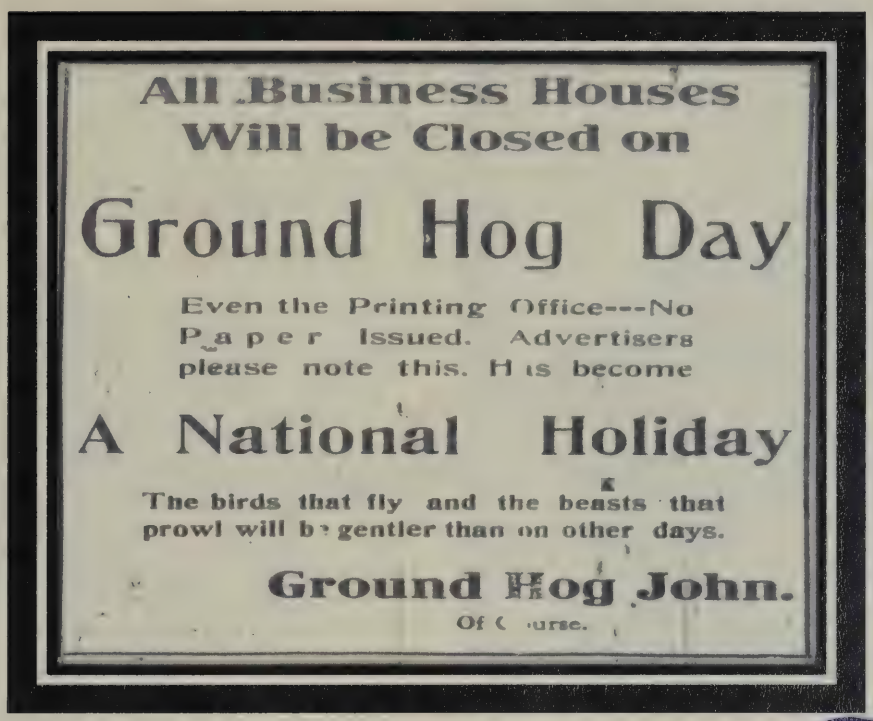
chips, scalloped corn, rolls, pickles, and jelly, third course was pea salad, wafers, and olives with the final course being cake, ice cream, and nuts. The tables were decorated in the club colors of green and yellow with the heavy use of smilax and daffodils.

This was not the first time that the Leasure's had entertained the Ladies Literary Club for an anniversary party. In 1890 the club celebrated their 8th anniversary in their home. The Club needed a large home in which to hold a party as it was said, "The club could only invite half of those who would be proud to receive the invitation." A terrible storm kept eight members and guests from attending, but it didn't prevent Julia Mott Hodge from sending her usual gift of violets. Julia was known to send a small bouquet of violets from her parents' Greenhurst farm to each club member. It was reported that a wonderful time was held and all thanked the Leasures for their great hospitality.

Dr. Leasure had even more talents to give her community. She wrote poetry, stories, and timely press articles. She was often seen on the speaking circuit. She was especially concerned about the liquor traffic as it was being conducted at the time. She was a staunch advocate of temperance and prohibition in this connection. These feelings expressed themselves in her membership in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Lida's writings and her lectures are said to express her character which citizens observed as one of a "spirit of justice and fair dealing". The citizens of Auburn thought of Dr. Leasure with high praise. She "lived an earnest life, high attainments, well rounded character and a large influence", she was highly regarded in a variety of Auburn's circles.

Lida's husband, John Leasure. "Ground Hog John"

John Leasure became known as "Groundhog John" as he went to extensive efforts to have groundhogs predict the weather for the many farmers who frequented his Auburn City Hardware business. Groundhog Day was a big event in Auburn thanks to John. In February of 1909, the weather had been very cold, dipping to six below zero the day before the big event. The ice-dealers were working to finish their annual harvest before thawing arrived. John was making preparations for the groundhog celebration at his hardware store. For many weeks he searched the countryside for a groundhog, but managed to only capture a possum. He kept the possum for a couple days, only to discover one morning that the possum had escaped during the night. The possum was located in a chicken coop a few mornings later. John reported that it met its "untimely death".



Somehow John found his groundhogs and put two on display in the front window of the store. One was about the size of a badger while the other one was small and immature. The two put on quite a show for the citizens of Auburn and drew considerable attention throughout the day. There was even an artist painting a landscape to use as a background for the groundhog display. John was also the editor of a magazine entitled "Groundhog Magazine". It was said to have several pages of hometown wisdom and philosophies. It was almost like Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac. During Groundhog Day, John passed these magazines out to his many friends while others quickly got one for themselves. The magazines were totally gone by nightfall of Groundhog Day, 1909. Certainly the celebration of the big event could be considered a major success.

Their daughter, Flossie Richwine, died in 1928. Lida died in 1931 with John dying the following year. All three are buried in the Masoleum in Roselawn Cemetery. In a period of just three years most of the family died. The only survivor was John Kent. He had become a doctor specializing in throat, nose, and ear. His practice was in Indianapolis. He lived until 1969.

While many remember Lida for her great contributions to education throughout the county, she offered much more through her capacity on the Library Board, WCTU, Ladies Literary Club, and her church. Lida was truly a remarkable woman with a most interesting and enterprising family.

1836-1903 BARBARA ELLEN ASHLEMAN ECKHART

"Nice looking woman, quiet, and gentle"....

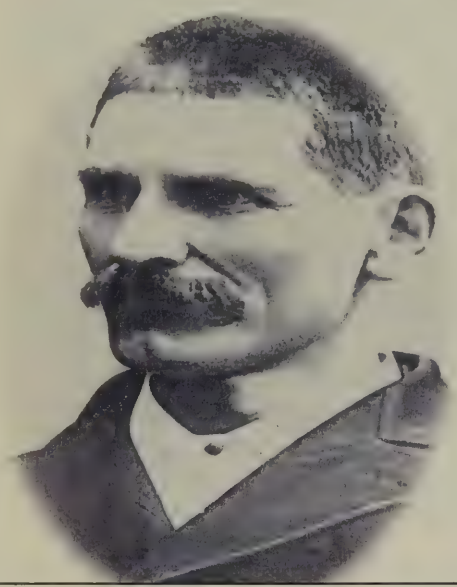
Barbara Ellen was born on November 13, 1836 in Wayne County, Ohio to Maria and John Ashleman. Her father, John, came to the area in August 1838 when he bought 160 acres from the Government Land Office in Fort Wayne. He probably paid the usual price per acre of $1.25. In Auburn, John helped Wesley Park lay out the town of Auburn. It is said that John lived with friendly Indians while his home was being built. The house itself was covered with sawed board siding that most likely came from Wesley Park's saw mill on Cedar Creek.

Barbara would be one of nine children born to this marriage. When Barbara was 7 years old the family moved to Auburn, Indiana. It can be assumed that the family came here via the Erie and Wabash Canal and then overland by wagons to Maumee where they used the canal to Fort Wayne. A team of horses brought them to DeKalb County. The oldest daughter, Elizabeth, was 11 years old upon arrival. She reported seeing the first grave in Auburn opened in the old cemetery south of Evergreen.

They settled in the family farm east of Auburn. Here they developed a large vegetable and flower garden around their home. A variety of fruits were raised as well. Herbs were gathered from the woods behind their home. The herbs were used for both cooking and medicinal uses. Growing their own food consumed much of the families' efforts. It is said that John stored his seed corn in the upstairs room where the girls slept. Maria also cultivated a flower garden consisting of many peony bushes in white, red, and pink as well as an abundance of wild double roses that seemed to cover the yard.. Wildflowers were also scattered throughout the garden. All the children developed a love of gardening due to the experience of their mother's garden.

In 1856 her father died followed by her mother's death in 1864. These deaths left Barbara and her younger brother Moses to run the farm. The siblings decided that Rosa should be sent to a Catholic school in Fort Wayne. The older siblings united in their efforts to maintain the family farm. Barbara and her brother Moses took charge. A year later, in 1865, Moses married. The marriage left Barbara at age 29 to run the homestead.

Barbara Ellen must have demonstrated great character and work ethic in running the farm for it has been said of the Ashleman family that they were hard workers, dependent only upon themselves, yet willing to help their neighbors. She met another hard working independent soul in Charles Eckhart. Charles had been with the 104th Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War. He was part of the Battle of Fair Oaks. He long had an irregular heart beat which caused him to weaken as the war continued. Charles was discharged in 1863 due to his health. Charles made a visit to Auburn and must have met Barbara on that trip. Charles and Barbara were married on October 30, 1866. Barbara was 30 years old, quite old for first marriages for women at that time.



Barbara's husband, Charles Eckhart

Charles took Barbara Ellen to Pennsylvania in 1867 where he ran four businesses in an area near Phoenixville. All four of their children, Frank, Ann, Morris, and Will were born during the seven years the couple lived there. Barbara's sister, Elizabeth, visited the family in Pennsylvania. After a few weeks, Elizabeth became homesick and returned to Auburn. Barbara and Charles returned within the year as well. They returned to Auburn in 1874. The Ashleman children were leaving the Homestead as they married, so the Eckharts moved into the home with their 4 children.

Their home in Auburn was a busy one with four children and a husband who started a buggy business in the home's living room. Barbara loved caring for the flowers in her garden, many left there from her mother's garden. As was typical of the day, Barbara shared many "starts" of flowers with neighbors and friends. Barbara was known to be an excellent cook. Perhaps this explains why she is described as a "little plump".

Charles is said to have ruled the home with an iron hand. He was the disciplinarian and a very strict parent. He insisted on daily family prayers. The boys were each taught a trade that would help in the family business, The Eckhart Carriage Company. Frank was a salesman before the age of 16, Morris' trade was a blacksmith, and Will learned trim work. Apparently Barbara helped with the carriage business as well. A letter written by cousin Lona Krum states," Mary Ellen Carmer used to walk from her home farm east of town to the Eckharts to take care of the children while Barbara Ellen helped Uncle Charles sew on buggy cushions. She said the children were well behaved."

Ashleman-Eckhart home and farm; East 7th Street, Auburn

Throughout their married life, Charles and Barbara Eckhart were called upon to support Barbara's family. Many people in the community said that Barbara's outstanding trait was her kindness to others. Barbara's sister, Mary, became a widow in 1875 when her husband Fred Raut died suddenly, leaving her with 2 children, 4 year old Winnie and a 8 month old son. Before the baby was born, Mary and Fred had given their savings of $700 to a substitute soldier so that Fred would not have to leave the family to go serve. Now, the family was left without any financial support. While none of the siblings were in a position to help a great deal, they all helped as much as they could at that time. Mary kept her family together with their help as well as having a huge vegetable garden and orchard.

THE CHARLES ECKHART ECKHART FAMILY ABOUT 1885
STANDING FRANK, MORRIS, WILLIAM , ANNIE

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NINE ASHLEMAN CHILDREN
TAKEN ABOUT 1882
Standing, L to R: Anna, Regina, Mary, William, Barbara, Christopher
Seated: Elizabeth, Moses, Rosa

Anna Ashleman Walker was a semi-invalid most of her married life. She loved to sketch birds and flowers she observed from her window in the farmhouse located 3 miles north of Waterloo. Christopher owned and operated farms near Auburn and had a Landscape Gardening business. He became an expert tree grafter. He suffered a loss in 1897 when his wife was killed while riding a bike and was struck by a runaway horse. Rosa, the youngest of Barbara's siblings, inherited the old home and lived there for many years until her death on January 23, 1945.

The Eckhart Carriage Company became the Auburn Automobile Company with Frank and Morris leading that company. In 1892 Charles retired. The following year the couple began to travel a great deal. They spent winters in Florida and eventually went to California. Their son Frank brought his wife Jesse and infant George to California to live with his parents. Jesse had become quite ill after George's birth, and it was hoped that the warmer climate would be of help to her. She died there, and her body was returned to Auburn.

George grew up in his father's home on North Main Street. Frank had the support in George's child-rearing from Jesse's parents, the Bolands, as well as Charles and Barbara Eckhart. Perhaps in order to make this effort easier for everyone, Charles built a new home for Barbara and himself on the SW corner of Van Buren and 4th Street. This home would be much closer to Frank's North Main Street than the farm making it easier for Charles and Barbara to help out with George.

It was in this home that Barbara Ellen died on September 10, 1903. Barbara had worked hard raising her family and helping her husband with his historical business venture. Her children went on to establish and run the Auburn Automobile Company becoming known both nationally and internationally. Barbara was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn, and when Charles died he was buried next to her.

ANNA COSPER MCINTOSH 1841-1915

Known as "the girl from Indiana" to the many wounded Civil War soldiers who awaited her daily visit and bright smile...

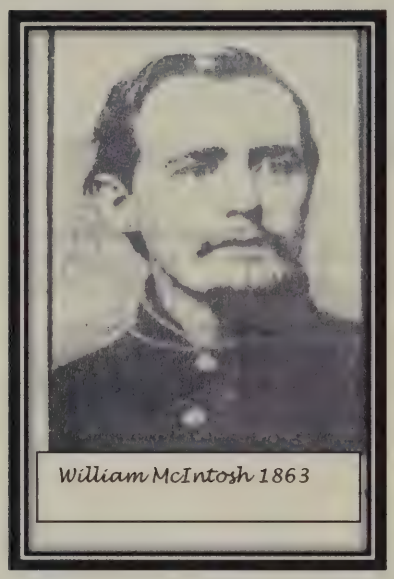
Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler have nothing on Anna Cosper and William McIntosh. While the couples are quite different, they are alike in many ways as well. Anna was the daughter of a prominent Auburn businessman, an independent minded young lady, determined, and charming much like Scarlett. Like Rhett, William was a take charge man, charming, caring, and wise. Both couples fell in love during the Civil War although one couple was Confederate while the other couple were Yankees. It is their romance during this conflict that makes for good reading.

Anna Cosper McIntosh was the oldest child of James R. and Mary McKay Cosper. She was born in Auburn on September 17, 1841. She grew up on the family farm about four miles east of Auburn. It was a simple log house. Anna grew up loving to learn. She was a student in the academies of both Newville and Auburn. Upon graduation Anna became a teacher in the district township schools. In 1862 two furloughed wounded Civil War soldiers returned to DeKalb County. Anna joined with many others in welcoming them home. Apparently meeting these soldiers made an impression on her. She wanted to do more for her country, and joined several other women in preparations to go south to assist in the war effort. Mrs. Randall Taurot, Maria Wanemaker, May Hutchins, and Geofe Meek joined together and left for Rutherford, Tennessee outside of Nashville where they heard help was needed.

Anna spent two years there totally uncompensated caring for the sick and wounded soldiers in the army hospitals around Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Most of her efforts were devoted to teaching

school. William McIntosh was a schoolmaster at a recently established school for the children of Negro fathers who had been drafted to serve in a colored regiment formed in Tennessee. Anna began teaching in this very school. McIntosh had been the one telling the DeKalb women that help was needed, but warned them that they had to be prepared for hardships. At first, Anna and Miss Wanemaker were teachers in McIntosh's school. The three other women opened a second school. During their free time, Anna helped William pass out current literature to the area Union hospitals. She also passed out many items sent to her from DeKalb County. Anna and William spent time together both at school and during these visits to the Union hospitals. A romance soon bloomed between these two young people.

William had volunteered for the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry that was stationed at Rutherford. He was told to establish the school for some 300 children of the freedmen there. This assignment was with the understanding that he could continue this work until further orders were given. In February 1864, William's orders came. He was going to be sent to the front line further east in Tennessee. William turned the school over to Anna Cosper. It must have been a difficult parting for the young people. In April of that same year, William while on a march to Chattanooga was granted permission to visit the Rutherford school. Anna and William quickly made plans to marry. The ceremony took place late in that very day, April 21, 1864. The couple did not see each other again until the war ended. William was mustered out in Milwaukee on June 25, 1865. Anna joined him at his father's home in Burlington, Wisconsin. William helped his father with harvest that year. Anna reports that he did not have many clothes, so he wore his Civil War uniform for the harvest. Their daughter, Ella, was born in Wisconsin in 1866.



William McIntosh 1863

It was the following year of 1867 that the young family moved to Anna's hometown of Auburn. Anna assumed the role of wife and mother typical of the period.

Anna and William McIntosh Home, South Main Street, Auburn Indiana

Son Henry was born and the family moved into a home on South Main Street.

Anna became involved with the Women's Christian Temperance Union that was very active within the community. The WCTU was dedicated to eliminating the consumption of alcohol. It became the largest women's reform organization of the 19th century. The WCTU was limited to women and grew rapidly until every state had an organization. It soon broadened its activities to include many women's rights issues including public health and suffrage. This was the first large national organization to unite women from both the North and the South. This association reintroduced Anna to many other prominent women of the area. They all worked together to further the WCTU's agenda.

A "daring robbery" occurred in November of 1872 within the McIntosh home. The Auburn Courier reported the robbery and warned the Auburn citizens to be careful of "light fingered gentry". The home was entered while the family was absent. Anna had hidden $400 in a cup and covered it with rice, but it was not enough to prevent it from being stolen. It seems that the McIntosh family had a brush with such bad luck previous to this robbery. A year before, William had lost $1000. The Courier warned that "our citizens should take advantage of this warning and secure their premises and guard themselves against the exploits of thieves and burglars".

During the years following the Civil War, Anna also became involved with the Women's Relief Corp (WRC). This group took on the mission of assisting Civil War Veterans and their families. They also helped the widows and orphans of the fallen soldiers. Anna must have felt that she had come full circle from her earlier days of helping the soldiers during the war to now helping them and their families during peacetime..

On the evening of October 31, 1904 Anna fell and permanently disabled her right arm. She reportedly did not complain over this misfortune. Although she became an invalid and was confined to her home on South Main Street, she did keep in touch with the citizens of Auburn. Her membership in both the W.C.T.U. and the W.R.C. offered her a way of serving even when confined to her beautiful home.

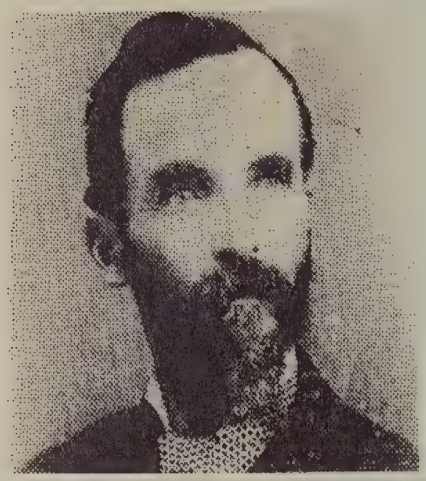
Anna died October 19, 1915. She was survived by William, her daughter Ella, two grandsons, and a granddaughter. The October 25, 1915 newspaper account of the funeral reports that over 200 people attended the service. Her oldest grandson, Russell Rakestraw of LaGrange read the obituary. Rev. Krider of Greentown conducted the service which was similar to the one he gave for Anna and William's son 11 years before her death. The pall bearers were two grandsons and four nephews and were all over six feet tall. Their height was an important factor in this service as it was the headline in the newspaper report. The tall young relatives were Russell and Arthur Takestra, Don and Noble Cosper, sons of her brother Byron of Butler, and Isaac and Paul Cosper, sons of her brother Frank. Several couples traveled a distance to attend Anna's funeral. It was said that the floral offerings were numerous and beautiful.

Of course, William had to have been devastated at the loss of his loved one. Their lovely home must not have seemed the same to him without her there. Perhaps it was this feeling of loneliness that prompted William to deed the property to the city of Auburn. The home was torn down. In its place a school was erected and appropriately named McIntosh. Without Anna, William went back to what he knew and loved .It was teaching. He was invited to speak in the area classrooms about the Civil War. Each time he spoke he would take a basket of apples, perhaps McIntosh apples, for the students. Anna and William's love story would warm the heart of any romantic, and should be remembered just like Scarlett and Rhett's story is recalled in both book and movie form. Anna along with William McIntosh contributed greatly to their community leaving a lasting legacy.

Anna McIntosh in your later years in Auburn, Indiana

Anna and William are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, south circle, in Auburn, Indiana.

ELIZABETH BRITTON WILLIS



The Honorable Lewis D. and Martha Britton

Elizabeth Britton Willis' parents

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

They rest from their labor and their works do follow them"

Lewis and Martha McCague Britton welcomed their first child, a daughter named Elizabeth Jane, into their Holmes County, Ohio home on April 4, 1845. Five years later the family left Ohio and moved to Indiana settling on a farm south of Corunna. Elizabeth helped her mother inside the home with the daily chores as well as caring for her siblings. She was of great help to her father, as well, with his outside chores. In addition to the work she did for both parents, Elizabeth Jane was known as a studious child. She was often seen with a book in her hand exploring subjects that were far beyond her years. While attending school, she took full advantage of the opportunities of study there. Upon graduation, she taught for many terms in the district schools, also assisting in some of the town schools.

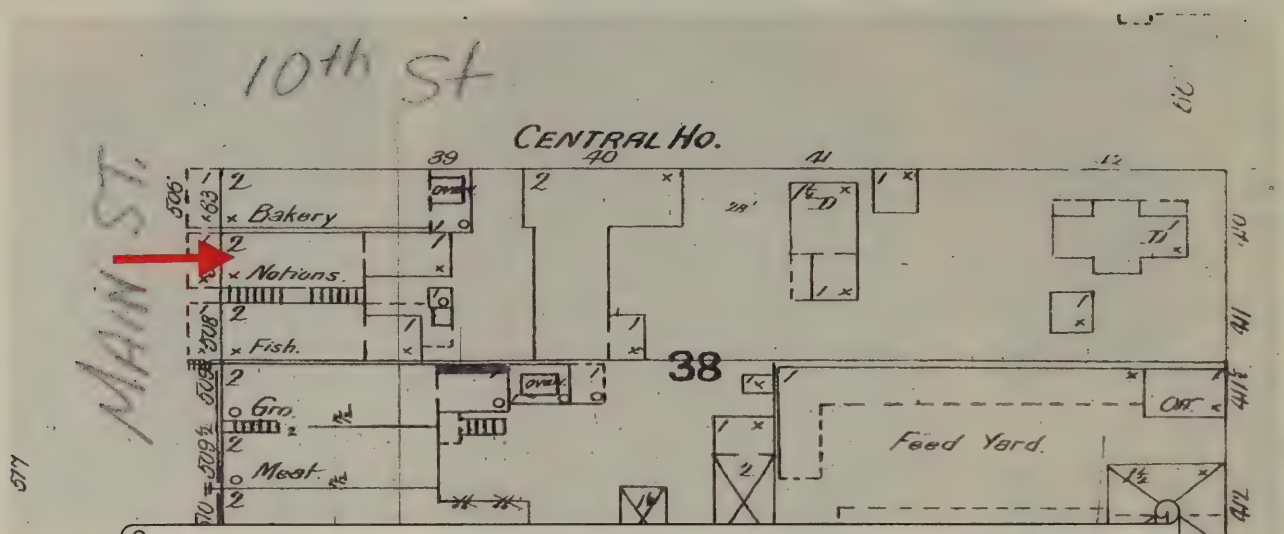
Elizabeth's father had been elected as state representative from the district. His opinions and ideas were greatly appreciated across the area. As the eldest child of this distinquished man, Elizabeth enjoyed the companionship and acquaintances of many of the area's prominent citizens. She was exposed to both social and cultural experiences as a result.

Living not far from the Britton family was the Henry and Emerline Willis family. The Willis' had settled one-half mile east of Green's Corners in Richland Township. Henry's sons, Frank and Moses, were about the same age as Elizabeth Jane. Both boys were a part of the local Company K, Forty-fourth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry fighting in the Civil War. During their service, the brothers took part in the battle of Shiloh. Moses was badly wounded in the right hand during the battle's second day. He went on to participate in long marches and sieges at Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, and Chickamauga. Moses was thought of as a soldier with unusual bravery and courage. His fellow soldiers held him in high esteem as did the officers under whom he served. Moses was promoted from Sergeant to Captain during his service. It is quite possible that Moses was thought of as a hero by many who served with him during the Civil War.

Sgt. Moses Willis 44th Indiana

With the end of the Civil War in April 1865, Moses returned to DeKalb County. He reacquainted himself with his neighbor, Elizabeth Britton. The couple was married on November 9, 1865. The young couple settled on a nearby farm. Elizabeth gave birth to three children Lewis, Marion and Nettie. The next ten years they worked very hard trying to make a go of things in spite of the depression of farm product prices. During their farming days, an exciting run-away occurred in Corunna. Moses and one of the boys were crossing the Corunna Bridge when a train passed below them. This upset the horses, they bolted and became unmanageable. The wagon was thrown and turned upside down throwing Moses and his son upon lumber piled nearby. It was thought that the boy was so badly injured that he would not recover, but he did. Over the next years, Moses' health suffered as the struggle of both war and farm took its toll. It had been equally difficult for Elizabeth.

The family of five moved into Waterloo in the spring of 1875. Moses went to work with his father Henry in the book, stationery, wall paper, and notion trade. He worked in the Waterloo store for two years. Elizabeth's brother-in-law, Frank Willis, was the editor of the Waterloo Press. Elizabeth had to feel a special friendship with her educated sister-in-law Josephine Willis, Frank's wife. Josephine was an Oberlin College graduate and loved books as much as Elizabeth. Josephine became the first president of the Minerva Club in Waterloo. Frank and Josephine's home was next door to the Shoemaker's Waterloo home. It would be probable that Elizabeth, Josephine, and Harriet Shoemaker became acquainted with one another. Within this small community, these three educated women must have enjoyed each other's company. In 1877 Moses opened a notion store in Auburn similar to the one his father owned in Waterloo. The M.B. Willis Stationery Store was located at 318 South Main Street. The family then moved to the Auburn community.



Downtown Auburn 1896. Willis Notion Store at 318 South Main Street

Elizabeth soon became acquainted with many of the ladies in Auburn. In 1882, these women formed The Ladies Literary Club of Auburn. Elizabeth had the honor of suggesting the motto that the club adopted, "Live and Learn". Elizabeth entertained the club ladies in her home and also took part in their many cultural programs. During a meeting of the club in 1886, Julia Mott Hodge began the meeting with a toast to "sweet Auburn the loveliest village of the plain". Following this toast, Elizabeth gave a lively and entertaining talk entitled, "How to make a garment out of old curtains." Certainly this subject was a fun one and possibly informational for the club. Often Elizabeth got club members involved in whimsical activities like the time she had them playing "Simon Says" much to the delight of the members.

At a very special club meeting held at Lida Leasure's home, Moses was selected by the male guests to respond to President Mrs. Lewis' welcoming remarks. It was written that Moses "acquitted himself most creditably." Moses chose to speak a few sentences in which he expressed the keen appreciation the friends of the club felt in their work. Those in attendance felt Mr. Willis' remarks were well received by the club members.

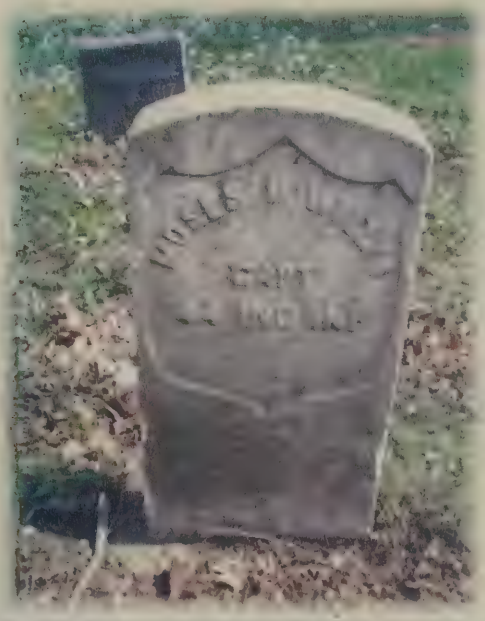
Elizabeth's involvement with the community and its prominent citizens led to a marriage. Her daughter, Nettie Britton, married the son of Charles and Barbara Eckhart, William. Nettie became a member of the Ladies Literary Club following her mother's footsteps. On April 14, 1903 after her mother's death, Nettie entertained the club at her home on North Main Street. At that time Elizabeth was remembered as an "active and interested member". Eventually the young Eckhart couple moved to California with many of the other Eckharts.

Nettie Britton Willis Eckhart with husband Will Eckhart and children Charlie and Edith soon after their arrival in California

Elizabeth had been in poor health for many years. It was reported that she was close to death on many occasions. When death did come, she was surrounded by family and friends. She had been able to greet each one with a kiss, a handshake, and a goodbye. She told each one to "be good to each other and meet me in heaven". She wished to be remembered to those who were not there, and then she died on June 29, 1901.

Elizabeth must have been proud of her heritage all her life. She was always known as Elizabeth Britton Willis. This was during the time when most women dropped their maiden name upon marriage. It is interesting to note that her cousin, Callie Britton, daughter of Amos Britton , also kept her maiden name upon her marriage to John Edward Zonker. The Britton name both in Holmes County, Ohio and DeKalb County, Indiana must have been one of great prestige. Elizabeth Britton Willis, continued the fine example of her ancestors, by setting examples of her own through her fine character, lovingly caring for her family, great sense of humor, and community involvement.

Elizabeth Britton Willis' gravesite..Originally labeled "Mother"....is now lost. The site is north of Moses Willis' grave Block 6, Section 1, sites 3,4,5,6 of Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, Indiana



Grave of Moses Willis Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn Block 6 Section 1, Willis family sites 3,4,5,6

VESTA WARD SWARTS

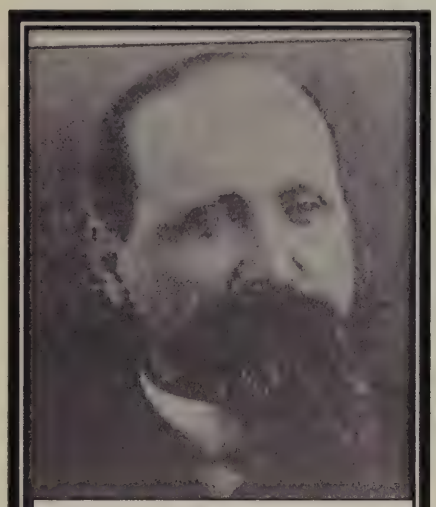
"Auburn's Military Spirit in the Sixties"

One of Auburn's distinquished early settlers was Stephen B. Ward. He was a merchant, Baptist minister, and Indiana State Senator. On April 26, 1841 a daughter was born to Reverend Stephen and Laura Ward. They named her Vesta. The family was living in Lorain County, Ohio at this time. A year later the Wards moved to Auburn. The family became one of the prominent families in this village of 50 homes and 300 citizens. Rev. Ward was very much involved in community building prevalent at this time. At the same time he was a minister of the gospel.

Vesta attended the Auburn public schools, and then went on to further studies at the Northeastern Indiana Academy in Orland graduating in 1858. She then began teaching in DeKalb County. She helped to organize the first Teachers' Institute ever held in the county. When the Civil War began, Vesta was teaching in a country school in Butler Township, in what was then called St. Johns. In April of that school year, the news of the firing on Fort Sumter was learned. Vesta recalled that this threw the surrounding countryside into "intense excitement". She also stated that the young ladies in her school made pledges of loyalty and all agreed that if war came they would work for the Union cause.

The following two years found Vesta teaching school in both Auburn and Hicksville. At the same time, she gave time to the cause as she spoke frequently and gave readings at meetings that were being held for the purpose of raising volunteers. At Auburn, Vesta had a class of 30 children who sang war campaign songs. This group was often called upon by her to sing at these special Union meetings.

On August 30, 1862 Vesta married a man nine years her senior, Dr. David Swarts. The wedding took place in her home. It would be probable to assume that her father Rev. S.B.Ward officiated. Dr. Swarts was soon off to the Civil War. He had been promoted to first assistant surgeon of the 100th Indiana volunteers being sent to the state of Georgia. Vesta continued her teaching in Auburn after her husband's departure to the south.


Dr. David Swarts, Vesta's husband.

For a time she was principal of the Auburn Graded schools. There were 325 students in the school including those referred to as "foreign scholars" as they came from outside the town, and often outside the county. Vesta remembers the winter of 1863-1864, especially New Year's Day, when the temperatures fell from 50 degrees to 32 degrees below zero in a single night. The month of February brought a flurry of activity to Vesta's school. People came in sleigh loads to attend the play of Pizarro and other attractions produced by local talent. The partitions between the school rooms were swung up with the audiences filling both double rooms. This surprised Vesta as there was admission charged for the two nights' performances.

Eliza Stafford came to live with Vesta on April 12, 1864. James Stafford , who was the guardian of Eliza bound the 12 year old girl to Vesta. The purpose of this indentured guardianship was for Vesta to teach Eliza how to sew and to perform generally the duties of housekeeping. This indentured period was to be concluded on January 29, 1871 when Eliza became 18 years old. Eliza would have cared for Vesta's children and home while Vesta obtained her medical degree and began her practice. In this manner, Eliza had to have been of great help to Vesta while Vesta ensured that Eliza learn how to sew and keep a household.

On July 6, 1864 Vesta left Auburn to join her husband and assist him in the care of the sick and wounded. She requested a pass from Indiana's governor, Oliver Morton. He quickly sent her one with the warning that she would not be able to get through to Georgia as Confederate General Hood was in Kentucky. Governor Morton gave Vesta a Nurse's Commission with the US Christian Commission. This was headed by Mrs. Anna Wittenmyer whose work was in and around Louisville. On July 15 of that year Vesta began her nursing career at the Brown US General Hospital in that Kentucky town.

Gov. Morton of Indiana

Vesta was quick to give credit to the many women who remained at home during the war and became advocates for the work that was needed to assist the front line workers. Many DeKalb County women helped send hospital supplies when and where they were most needed. Vesta served the Union cause until poor health forced her to quit. She was honorably discharged and returned to her Auburn home. She was always very proud of her commission that she held from the government, for such commissions were not easy to obtain.

Upon returning to Auburn, Vesta became involved in many community activities as a married woman. She joined the very active Ladies Literary Club participating in the varied cultural and educational aspects of the club. It was at the April 12, 1887 meeting of this club that Vesta exhibited the fact that she was a woman

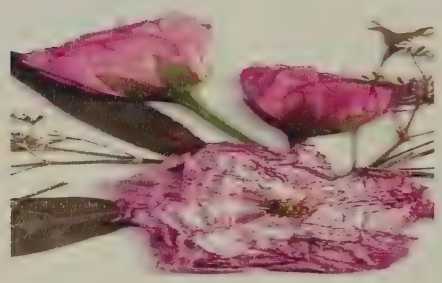
ahead of her time. Presiding over the program was President Julia Mott Hodge with Elizabeth Willis serving as Custodian of Queries. Vesta chose to give a talk entitled, "Do American Women Desire the Ballot?" One would hope that the answer to Vesta's question was "yes". There was no reporting on the answer other than the males in attendance at this special program found it "interesting". At the 21st Anniversary of the Club's founding, Vesta presented thoughts entitled, "The City and Citizens" while Dr. Lida Leasure offered thoughts called "Apology". Both ladies' presentations were reported to be "witty and very able".

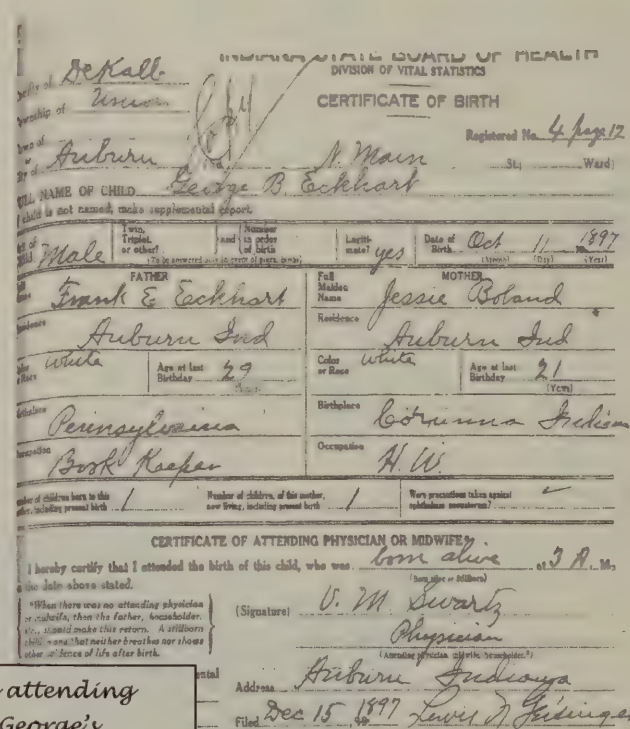
Vesta took an active interest in her husband's medical practice. She even studied for awhile with David. She then took special classes in medicine and surgery and was admitted as a junior at the University of Michigan. March 1882, Vesta graduated from the Fort Wayne College of Medicine. She began an active medical practice of her own in Auburn. Later, she took additional graduate work in New Orleans.

Swarts' bathhouse & Sanitorium, 6th Street their, home next door Main & 6th

It was during these very busy years that Vesta and David became parents of two sons. Harris was born August 24, 1866 with Willard Ward entering this world on July 14, 1872. Harris was educated in Auburn and went on to become a telegraph operator with the Illinois Central Railroad. He was one of the original stockholders of the Auburn Hardware Company. It had to have been devastating for Vesta when in 1896 her two young grandchildren, Mabel age 6, and Harold Ward age 2 died within two weeks of each other. Both deaths were caused by diphtheria. Her son, Willard Ward, followed in his mother and father's footsteps becoming a physician. W. W. Swarts practiced in Auburn as did his parents.

This birth certificate verifies the fact that in December 1897 Vesta was the attending physician at the birth of Charles Eckhart's grandchild. George Eckhart was born on December 15, 1897 to Frank and Jessie Boland Eckhart. Vesta signed the Certificate of Birth.





INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

Registered No. 4 page 12

Certify of DeKalb
Township of Union
Town of Auburn N. Main St. Ward
FULL NAME OF CHILD George B. Eckhart
If child is not named, make supplemental report.
Sex of child Male | Twin, Triplet, or other? | and | Number in order of birth | Legitimate? yes | Date of Birth Oct (Month) 11 (Day) 1897 (Year)

FATHER	MOTHER
Full Name Frank E Eckhart	Full Maiden Name Jessie Boland
Residence Auburn Ind	Residence Auburn Ind
Color or Race White	Age at last Birthday 29 (Years)
Color or Race White	Age at last Birthday 21 (Years)
Birthplace Pennsylvania	Birthplace Corunna Indiana
Occupation Book Keeper	Occupation H. W.

Number of children born to this mother, including present birth 1 | Number of children, of this mother, now living, including present birth 1 | Were precautions taken against ophthalmic neonatorum? —

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at 3 A. M. (born alive or stillborn) on the date above stated.

*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.

(Signature) V. M. Swartz
Physician
(Attending physician, midwife, householder.)
Address Auburn Indiana
Filed Dec 15 1897 Lewis N. Geisinger

George Eckhart's Birth Certificate, Vesta Swarts attending physician. Barbara & Charles Eckhart were George's Grandparents

Vesta's profession kept her so busy that she was not able to attend many of the Ladies Literary Club meetings. She decided to host a party for these ladies at the Locke Hotel in Waterloo in 1897. She made all the arrangements, decorated each table with simlax and roses. There was a four course dinner served each lady in attendance. The ladies all enjoyed a lovely time and remarked how lovely the Hotel was as it had just been taken under new management.

Hotel Locke in Waterloo: Corner Washington and VanVleck St.

Vesta hosted yet another party in 1903. This time it was a reception where her co-hostess was her son Willard Ward's wife. Their home at the corner of 6th and Main was the scene for this event. Members of the Ladies Literary Club as well as many guests appreciated the opportunity to be with each other.

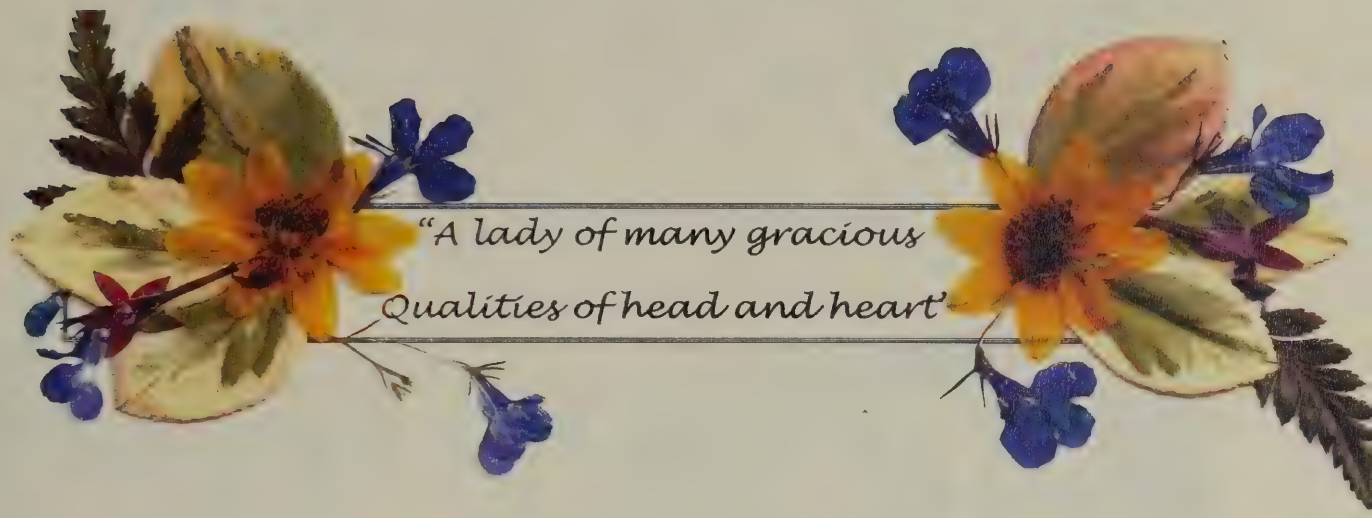
Vesta continued a limited practice after David's death in 1905. Vesta died at 7 o'clock in the morning of August 2, 1923 in her home. She had been in failing health for some six years. She was 82 years old at the time of her death. At that time it was said of her, "Mrs. Swarts was a woman of high ideals and purpose in life, and had literary attainments as well as her professional ability. She had many substantial friends and was one of the best known women in the county during her day."

Doctors David and Vesta Swarts are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn. Their grave marker indicates their service to the Union during the Civil War. Vesta's especially acknowledges the fact that she received a US Christian Commission. This talented and dedicated couple served caring for soldiers from both sides of the Civil War conflict as well as care for the citizens of Auburn.

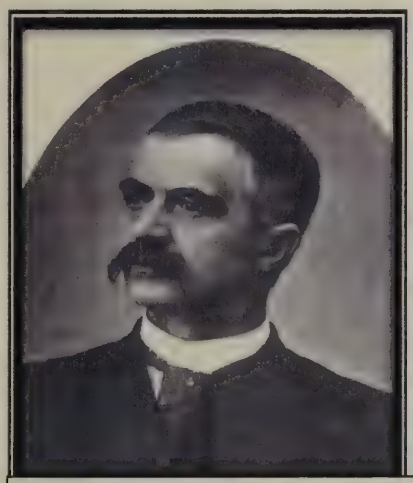
Vesta and David Swarts gravestone in Woodlawn Cemetery

Notice that both indicated their service during the Civil War

LOUISA HAUENSTEIN DAVIS 1838-1928



Louisa Hauenstein was born October 16, 1838 in Buffalo, New York. Just two years later, Louisa's father died. She was educated in the Buffalo schools. John Leonard Davis was also born in Buffalo four years before Louisa. John entered the world on November 3, 1834 in the section of Buffalo known as Black Rock. At the age of 19, John came to Wabash, Indiana where his older brothers, William and Kirby, had a hardware business. In that business, John learned the trade of tinner. Just a year later, in the fall of 1854 John returned to Buffalo. Sometime during the next two years, Louisa and John met one another. They married on December 1, 1856.



Louisa's husband, John L. Davis, Auburn's Pioneer Hardware Store owner.

The newlyweds moved to a small town, East Aurora, just a few miles southeast of Buffalo. For the next six years the couple followed farming as a way of supporting themselves. During these years, Louisa gave birth to two sons, Lewis in 1856 and Fred in 1859. East Aurora was, and is, a small village and the farmers must have all known one another. South of the village there is a Davis Road, perhaps named for John and Louisa. The farmers living on or near Davis Road would have been the Albert North and George Bullard families, great-great-grandparents of the author of this book.

John received word from his older brother, Joseph , that his health was failing .He requested that John come to Auburn, Indiana to take over the running of his business, the Pioneer Hardware Store. John and Louisa arrived in Auburn on October 16, 1862 just a year after the Civil War started. Soon after, a little girl, Claudia, was born to John and Louisa in 1863. John joined Joseph in running the business, and when Joseph died in April, 1865 John bought his brother's business. Sadly, the following year, little Claudia died at the age of three. Later, in 1870, another girl, Edna Alene was born to the couple. The family had moved into a home at 211 North Jackson Street.

Residence of Mrs. J. L. Davis

The family was very well received in Auburn. John was friendly with a pleasing personality. His manner increased the popularity of his store. John sold Headquarter Stoves which were known as "the celebrated Buffalo New York stoves". They proved to be very popular with DeKalb County citizens. It was said that the use of coal greatly increased as more and more stoves were sold by John. To promote these stoves, a poem about Auburn appeared in The Auburn Courier stating that, "And Davis tries through thick and thin; to furnish it with stoves and tin". The "it" in the poem was Auburn. The business was going well until in 1868 the store burned down. The fire was said to be the beginning of Louisa and John's "troubles". They rebuilt on the same location at the corner of 6th and Main. The building has been known as the Davis building ever since.

Louisa was a member of the Traine Club which was later known as the Ladies Literary Club. The 2nd Anniversary of the Club's founding was celebrated in Louisa's home. It was said to be, "the finest social entertainment ever known in Auburn". Louisa's home was perfect for this big event because it had such spacious rooms. Many of Louisa's friends were in attendance. They were Dr. Lida Leasure, Dr. Vesta Swarts, and Elizabeth Britton Willis. Elizabeth performed a comedy called "A Slight Mistake" as part of the day's entertainment.

Louisa and John's "troubles" reappeared when their son Albert died in 1875 at the age of 17 years. Albert had "an affection of the kidneys" and was confined to his room for over a year before the disease spread to his brain and spine causing spasms from which he could not recover. The following year, John's father, William Davis died. He had been living in Indianapolis. John and Louisa brought his body back to Auburn where he was buried. The couple must have felt overwhelmed by all of this. However, it was reported admiringly that the couple just kept bouncing back from these "troubles".

John and Louisa kept themselves busy as active participants in the Auburn community. John gave freely of his time and money in the construction of the Detroit, Eel River & Illinois and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads. He also helped in bringing natural gas to Auburn. About 1890, John contributed time and money attempting to establish a DeKalb County Fair in Auburn. John became the treasurer of the first Fair Board. Many factories were started in Auburn as a result of John's efforts. Due to his popularity, smart business sense, and many efforts at promoting Auburn and DeKalb County John was elected to the office of DeKalb County Treasurer.

Their son Fred served as John's deputy treasurer. Fred died suddenly at the age of 33 on October 18, 1892. These losses had to have brought great sadness to the remaining Davis family. The "troubles" continued when a year later the hardware store failed and was temporarily closed. John and Louisa owned many properties including an additional hardware store in Garrett. These properties were used to settle debts and by 1899 articles began to appear about the store reopening. The store's name was now Pioneer Hardware Company.

DeKalb County
PIONEER
HARDWARE STORE !
Auburn, Indiana,

The subscriber begs to announce to his patrons and the public that this old established
Cheap Hardware Store
AND TIN-SHOP,
is once more in full blast in his
NEW BRICK BUILDING,
and he has filled it with a
NEW STOCK
including all the latest and best styles of
Hardware,
STOVES, TIN-WARE, STEEL,
BAR AND SHEET IRON,
NAILS, GLASS, OILS, PAINTS,
And all other articles in the trade as any other establishment in the West, and at as LOW PRICES.
Every description of Tin-work and repairs promptly attended to.
Cook and Parlor Stoves,
of every variety.
Give me a Call before Buying Anything in my Line Elsewhere.
All persons owing me will confer a favor by settling up immediately.
JOHN L. DAVIS.
Auburn, Oct. 1, 1868. 9-4t

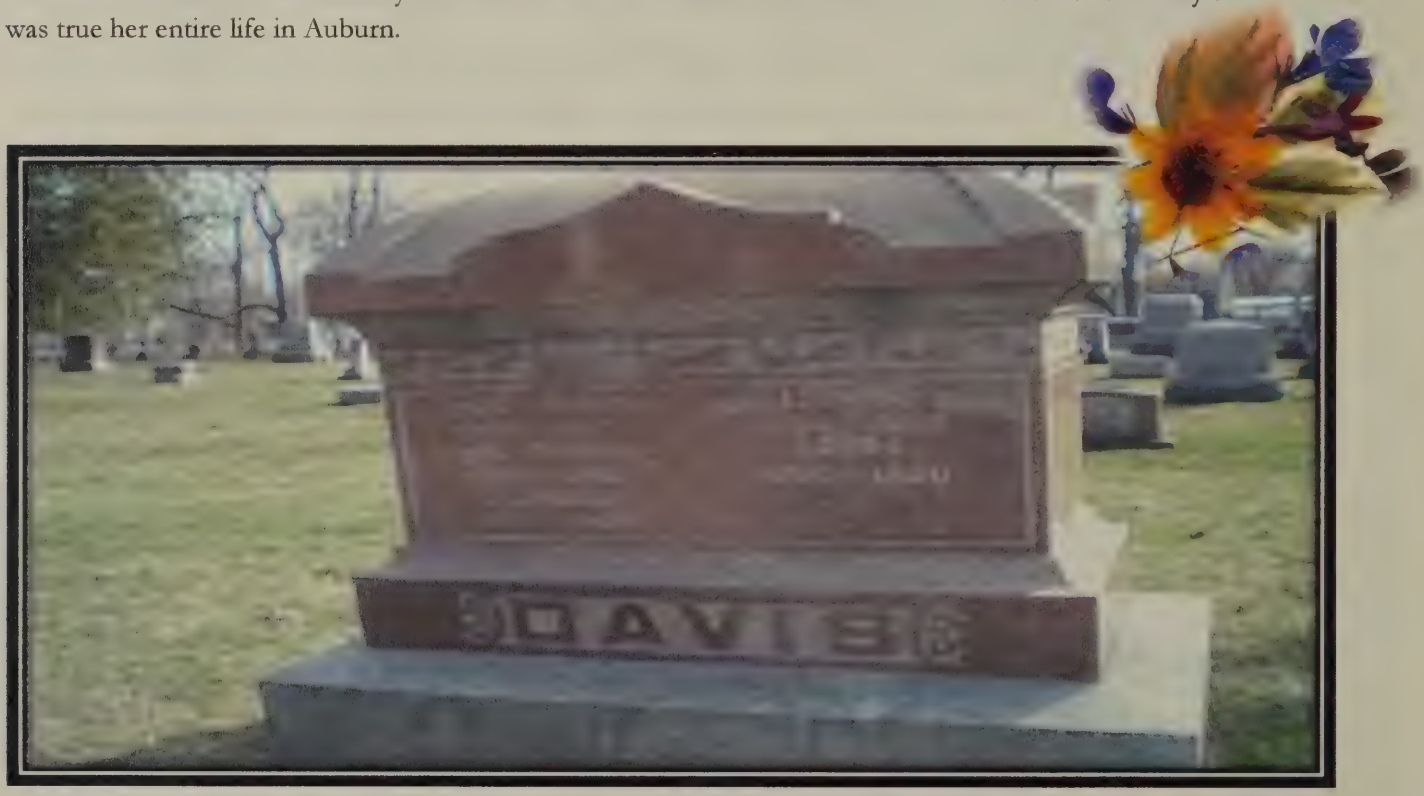
Louisa also became a business woman in her own rights. She held 10 shares of the Modern Buggy Company which stood where Rieke Corporation stands today. It was almost unheard of for a woman to hold her own stock at that time, but Louisa did just that. Louisa became very active in the social life of Auburn. She continued her active membership in the Ladies" Literary Club. It was reported that on April 11, 1912 The Ladies Literary Club celebrated their 30th Anniversary. Louisa was part of the entertainment. She sang two solos, "To You" and "The Little Gray Dove". Later in the evening she portrayed the Spirit of the Night in the "Mid-Summer Night" cantata. Louisa was quite musical as this report indicated; she was also a member of the Auburn Evening Musicale. Louisa also served as president of the Woman's League. Both Louisa and her daughter Edna were active members of the Presbyterian Church. Joining Lida Leasure and Anna McIntosh, Louisa was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The WCTU built a large fountain on the courthouse square across the street from the Pioneer Hardware Company. Louisa was known for her intelligence and organization. The many organizations to which she belonged surely benefited from her work and abilities.

W.C.T.U. Fountain on the Courthouse Square, Auburn, Indiana

Soon after the hardware store was able to reopen, in December of 1899, John became ill and thereafter was not able to attend to his hardware business. It is said that John "wasted away" the last year of his life. Certainly this would have been difficult for Louisa as he needed her care. He died on August 14, 1900. His funeral was very large and attended by his many friends not just from Auburn but from neighboring towns and cities. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery. The Knight Templars' burial ceremonies by Apollo Command No. 19 from Kendallville closed the funeral service. John had been a member there. There were 38 swords in line along with DeKalb Lodge No. 214 and the Elk Lodge. All business in Auburn was suspended in honor of John. It was reported that floral tributes were huge and many. One especially was noted, it coming from the Elk Lodge. The tribute was made of appropriate flowers in the shape of an elk head. It was mounted so it appeared to be looking over from the other side of the casket. The Auburn Courier noted, " With its eyes and antlers it had an appearance of almost startling reality."

Louisa was to live 28 years after John's death. She and Edna continued to involve themselves in the community life of Auburn. On April 26, 1911 the Ladies Literary Club sponsored an Art Exhibit at the library. The Auburn Musicale to which Louisa was a member provided music while citizens enjoyed the exhibit.

Louisa died at 12:30 on Friday, October 18, 1928. She had had severe nose hemorrhages on Wednesday evening previous to her death. Louisa was in her 90th year. The funeral was held in her home with Rev. Hubert Craven, pastor of the Auburn Presbyterian Church officiating. Louisa was buried by the side of John, as well as three of her four children, in the Evergreen Cemetery. "She is a lady of many gracious qualities of head and heart and is well liked by all who know her" was said of Louisa when she was alive. Certainly this was true her entire life in Auburn.



Louisa and John's grave stone in Evergreen Cemetery, Auburn.

MARY WINTERBOTTOM MOTT 1806-1893

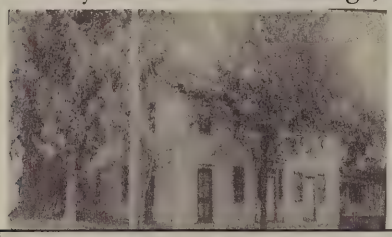
"I can hardly find words to express the love and admiration I feel for the land of my birth"

Mary Winterbottom known lovingly as "Mally" to her family was born in the village of Mossley, Lancashire, England on February 4, 1806. This was her beloved homeland. She was the eldest child of the wool manufacturer, John Winterbottom, and his wife Anne. Mary often remarked on the discipline her father administered. He expected unquestioning obedience from all his children. Mr. Winterbottom decided to move his family to America and made plans for passage for his entire family as well as Anne's sister, Rachel. They left England on board the ship "Herald" with Captain Price as commander. They sailed from Liverpool with New York as their destination. The voyage was to last eight weeks. Mary often told of how the ship was stopped by an English man-of-war and searched for deserters from the army or navy. This obviously made quite an impression on her. They had managed to hide a neighbor, Jack Buckey, who was an army deserter.

When they landed in New York, Mary's father joined a partnership with David and William Humphreys for the manufacturing of fine woolen goods and broadcloths in Seymour, Connecticut. Mary was educated there and soon began teaching school. Mary was well read and especially fond of "substantial" literature, history, biography, and science.

While teaching in Providence Mary became acquainted with a gentleman, Egbert Mott, who enjoyed similar educational taste. Egbert's grandfathers had been Revolutionary War soldiers, and a great-grandfather arrived in America in 1630 and was a founder of Boston. They had similar English backgrounds, esteemed relatives, love of learning, and appreciation of great literature. The couple married on December 30, 1830.

A few years after their marriage, the couple decided to move to Ohio. While living there, five children were born to Egbert and Mary. Their second child, Reginald Heber, died in infancy. It was decided that the family would move further west. On October 16, 1843, Mary and Egbert and their four children arrived in Auburn. Their arrival was a bit traumatic. The road coming into Auburn from the east came at Sixth Street where the bridge across Cedar Creek stood at that time. Their teams had become mired in the mud further east. Egbert carried his youngest child with the remainder of his family following him. He got them across the bridge and was directed to Mr. Parson's tavern. Here, Egbert left his family while he returned to get his horses out of the mud. The tavern stood on the northwest corner of Fourth and Cedar Streets.



Tavern on NW corner of Fourth and Cedar

Mary's health was not strong and continued failing. Egbert decided he should take his family back to Ohio. He sold his home in Auburn to Miles Waterman. Mary's health improved so Egbert changed his mind about moving, and bought vacant lots on Sixth and Cedar Streets instead. Homes were built on these vacant lots.

During the next years, the Auburn citizenship became indebted to Mary and Egbert for the varied fruit and flowers they brought to the community. On one blustery day, Egbert walked eight miles south of town to the farm of Robert Worh and gathered currant-slips for the town. Black Morello cherries were also introduced by the Motts to the Auburn community. Currants and black cherries were especially dear to Mary as they were popular fruits in England. Black Morello cherries had become extremely popular during the reign of Henry VII so it is very probable that Mary had enjoyed them in England. In 1854 Egbert bought a farm north of Auburn. They called their farm home "Greenhurst".

"Greenhurst"

Lt. Sheridan Mott

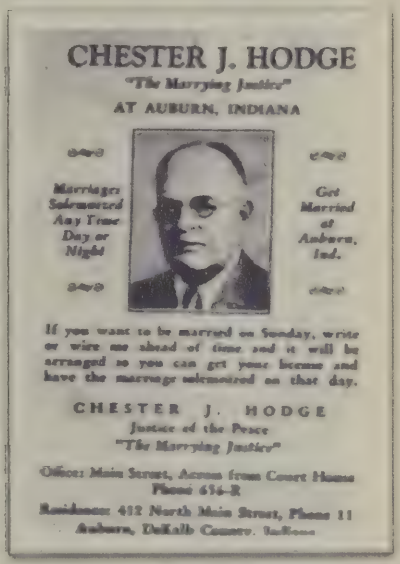
The Civil War years were especially hard for the family. April, 1862, a year after the war started, their son Sheridan joined Company A of the 88th Indiana Volunteer. The following year daughter Julia married Chester Hodge on April 14, 1863, and left their home. Three months later, son Grenville left for California after having served three months in the Civil War. A few months later in September of 1863, Egbert and Mary learned that Sheridan had been shot in the Battle of Chickamauga. The bullet had shattered his femur. He had been taken prisoner by the Confederates, but later exchanged for wounded Southern soldiers. Sheridan had been in the Chattanooga hospital before being transferred to better housing in Nashville. May 1864 brought a message to Egbert from Sheridan. It stated, "I am at hospital No. three, Nashville; shall soon die". Egbert, Mary, Julia and Chester rushed to Nashville. They arrived on Saturday, but Sheridan had died the previous Monday. The family brought his body back to Auburn, and he was laid to rest on Friday, May 27, 1864.

The next year Julia gave birth to a little girl on April 4, 1865. The baby was named Mary. This had to bring great joy to Mary and Egbert. Within a few days the Civil War ended bringing further happiness to the Motts and their Auburn community. Mary remembered the little boys who use to play with Sheridan and his older brother Grenville. Samuel and Clark Ford were boyhood pals of the Mott boys. They all pledged that if war came they would go to war. They all kept their pledge, and three died doing so. Sheridan died after Chickamauga, Clark died at Shiloh, and Samuel was wounded many times suffering for twenty years before his early death. Grenville was the lone survivor. Everyone had to be grateful that the terrible war had ended.

Three months after her son, Granville, married and left the Mott home, Egbert died. Egbert's passing came on September 30, 1865. Mary's grief over her husband's death was intensified when just a week later Julia's little girl died. Mary was now alone in her home. Julia and Chester moved from LaGrange to the Greenhurst home so they could be closer to Mary. Julia and Chester would become parents of four more children, three died before they were a year old. One little girl Teresa lived to be six years old. This had to have been traumatic years for Julia, Chester, as well as Mary.

Julia and Chester Hodge became a very busy and interesting couple in the Auburn community. Chester was a judge in Waterloo becoming known as the "marrying judge." In those days there was no waiting period for couples to marry in Indiana. As a result, many couples came from nearby states via the railroad stopping at Waterloo. Judge Hodge would marry them, and for an additional fee Julia would play the piano for the ceremony. Afterwards, the newlyweds would take the train back to their homes.

Mary's physical strength while never strong did deteriorate. She and Julia became members of the Ladies Literary Club of Auburn. However, many times Julia was absent from a meeting due to caring for her mother. On occasion, both ladies were able to attend a club meeting. While a member of the American Episcopal Church, Mary and Julia were a part of the Presbyterian congregation as there were no Episcopalian churches in the area. Her health prevented her from being an active member there as well.



CHESTER J. HODGE

"The Marrying Justice"

AT AUBURN, INDIANA

Marriages Solemnized Any Time Day or Night

Get Married at Auburn, Ind.

If you want to be married on Sunday, write or wire me ahead of time and it will be arranged so you can get your license and have the marriage solemnized on that day.

CHESTER J. HODGE

Justice of the Peace

"The Marrying Justice"

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Residence: 412 North Main Street, Phone 11

Auburn, DeKalb County, Indiana

Mary's son-in-law, Chester Hodge, the Marrying Justice.

Eventually, with increasing age and weakness, Mary secluded herself more and more from the Auburn community. She continued her love of reading and enjoyed being surrounded by her books. Friends who visited found her cheerful and bright. She read and reread the Bible, both in English and French.

She would recall and remark about all the changes of life and manners she had witnessed over her years. She felt that in every day affairs the greatest change was in letter writing and postal service. Envelopes had been invented making it easier to send a letter. She was not happy with the cost of postal service especially the cost of sending magazines.

Mary died in her Greenhurst home on Wednesday morning October 4, 1893. She was 87 years 8 months old at the time. It was reported that she suffered during the last months of her life. She was survived by her daughter Julia Hodge who had become a widow, and her son John who lived in Michigan City, Indiana. Mary had lived a most interesting life. Egbert was the first lawyer in Auburn, eventually becoming an Auburn judge enjoying great regard from all that knew him. Mary and her family were appreciated as his family. In an effort to bring a bit of her beloved homeland to the community, Mary attempted to be active in cultural, educational, and social affairs of the fledging community. Mary Mott influenced DeKalb County by who she was not necessarily what she did.

Mott Cementery, North Main Street, Auburn

JANE BROOKS HINE 1831-1916

"Affectionately known as the Bird Woman of Indiana"....

The DeKalb County Court House's cornerstone in Auburn holds an article entitled, " Game and Land Birds of an Indiana Farm". This very special 25,000 word article reported on different birds that DeKalb County's Jane Hine had observed on her farm in Sedan. The article along with 60 colored pictures gives us a snapshot into the natural heritage of our county. Today, not many know about this nationally known writer and speaker who lived in DeKalb County. In fact, Jane was known internationally for her knowledge of birds.

Jane was born in Lake County, Ohio on the second of April in 1831 to Lonson and Mary Smith Brooks. As a young girl she tells of becoming fascinated with the birds she saw outside her window. The two birds she especially enjoyed as a child were the Meadow Lark that seemed to call to her from the honey-locust tree behind her home and the Savannah Sparrow that she watched scratch on the ground outside her window. Jane reported that "His nest in the berry patch is where the bushes stand thickest."

At the age of 6, Jane and her family moved to Erie County, Ohio. It was there that she met her future husband, Horatio Sheldon Hine, when she was but 9 years old. Horatio was her teacher. Horatio courted Jane's older sister Cynthia, and eventually married Cynthia on November15, 1847. Horatio and Cynthia had 3 children, Sheldon, Charles, and Frank. Unfortunately, Cynthia died September 22, 1855. Two years later on November 10, 1857, Jane married her brother-in-law. This was a happy marriage producing three children, Nellie Cynthia, Brooks, and Lemon. It is reported that Horatio and Jane moved to DeKalb County with all six children in either 1860 or 1861 at the start of the Civil War.

Horatio's father, Sheldon, had purchased land in Richland Township, DeKalb County some 20 years previous to the family's move here. Sheldon was said to have been very disappointed upon seeing this land for the first time. He saw a swamp instead of farm land with a sink hole in it so deep that for many years the New York Central Railroad had to make a detour in order to avoid the area. Horatio managed to locate a spot for a home as well as land suitable for farming.

Jane called their home" Birdlawn" and the farm itself was called "Meadowlark". Jane set out wild flowers on a hill slope in front of the farmhouse. It was here that Jane raised her three children along with her sister Cynthia's three. Jane studied the many birds she observed on her "Meadow Lark" farm. Years later when Jane's daughter, Nellie Benson, lived in "Birdlawn", she drew great pleasure from caring for the lovely wildflower garden that her mother had planted .

Jane was a member of the Literary Clubs of both Waterloo and Auburn. She had attended Oberlin College in Ohio and enjoyed the companionship of women with like minds. Poetry was a form of literature that she enjoyed writing as well as reading. On many occasions, Jane was invited to read one of her original poems for the Auburn Ladies Literary Club. On November 11, 1906 the Ladies Literary Club met in the home of Mrs. William McIntyre in Auburn. Jane was invited to read one of her poems. She selected, "The Little Brown Thrush". It was noted that the members enjoyed her readings very much. To celebrate the 26th Anniversary of the Ladies Literary Club she was invited to their celebration and asked to recite a poem. Jane complied willingly to the request.

The Swale

The Watery Road to Heron Town

No barren road
Leads travelers on
Its dusty way
To Heron Town:
But
Tangled willows,
Sweet swamp roses,
Sword grass meadows,
Bogs of rushes,
Wild flag blossoms,
Wiry sedges,
Stately cat-tails,
Ferns and mosses
Line all the road
That stretches on
Its swaly path
To Heron Town

By Jane Brooks Hine (1831-1916)

She wrote many articles pertaining to the birds she studied on her farm. Jane often walked the farm in the evening or night time to watch a certain type of bird or a migrating flock. She kept diaries and notebooks of her observations. Horatio encouraged Jane in her study of birds. If he saw an unusual happening while out farming, he would call for Jane to go explore. The couple shared this interest. Jane often referred to Horatio and herself as "old cronies". Jane's knowledge grew as did the awareness of others to her valuable information. She was often asked for her ornithological reports by both state and national governments when they needed information pertaining to northern Indiana. "It can be said that she is the last word on that branch of zoology that pertains to the natural history of birds and their classification".

The family was members of the Lutheran Church. A family story tells of Horatio being baptized during a winter revival meeting. A hole had to be chopped through the ice on a nearby lake. The minister lowered Horatio into the lake so that he was totally immersed. Unfortunately the minister let go of Horatio and he slipped under the ice. The crowd that had gathered for the event, stood by, unable to move. The rescuer came in the form of the local "town drunk". He jumped in and saved Horatio. Horatio decided, after that experience, that his burial spot had to be on a hill overlooking water. In fact, their burial is on a hill overlooking a small creek along the north side of the Waterloo Cemetery.

Winters in DeKalb County find many residents observing birds at their birdfeeders. We especially enjoy the beautiful red cardinals. This beautiful bird became Indiana's state bird in 1933. However, cardinals did not

appear in northern Indiana until 1885. Jane reported seeing a "free" cardinal in the spring of that year. Previously she had only seen a cardinal caged as a pet. She called it a Cardinal Grosbeak. Jane was happy to observe that more and more cardinals were seen around their farm in the following years.

Once Horatio and Jane's children were raised, Jane was able to devote more of her time to nature studies. Horatio passed away in 1896 leaving even more time to devote to her studies. She had been a favorite with children as they enjoyed hearing her tell stories about pioneers and nature. One story that she would tell she called the "Cedar Lake Massacre". Jane recalled that Green Herons were once abundant in the DeKalb County area. One day a gang from Sedan went to Cedar Lake. They returned with a wagon load of dead Green Herons. This episode had to be very upsetting to Jane. She probably retold the story to show her listeners that destruction of nature is not a good thing.

When Jane was 69 years old, she travelled to Mexico to visit her sons Frank and Brooks who were living there. While Jane was away in Mexico her youngest child Lemon, who was now 31 years old, married, still living in the Corunna area was killed. He was crossing the Lake Shore railroad track and was struck by the limited express. Lemon was killed instantly. Many of Lemon's neighbors fondly remembered him as a fine farmer after attending Purdue for three years. Jane was unable to attend her son's funeral.

As she grew older, Jane wanted to use her knowledge to write articles that would be read by a larger audience. These articles reported on a variety of birds. Today these articles are regarded as classics. In 1911, she wrote a collection of short articles on the birds at "Our Farm". Some of Jane's finest essays were written after she was 70 years old. Many organizations invited her to speak to their groups on bird lore. One of her articles was included in the State Fish and Game Commissioner, George Miles' Annual Report. It is this report that is placed within the cornerstone of the DeKalb County Court House.

Jane's 82nd birthday was a huge event. Nellie Hine Benson, Jane's daughter, planned the entire get together. Unfortunately, the weather did not entirely cooperate. The ladies of Auburn's Ladies Literary Club would not miss honoring their fellow club member even when the weather was very rainy. They drove to Sedan in covered carriages. Nellie had prepared a dinner party. Jane sat at the head of the table where she was presented a huge birthday cake with 82 green and yellow candles. The cake was presented to Jane upon a "white plaque twined with smilax and daffodils". A toast was offered to Jane by the president of the club. The toast exemplified how her friends felt about Jane. The toast was:

"Here's to our beloved hostess, our own Mrs. Hine;
Here's to her good health, her happiness divine;
Here's to her birthday, her four score and two;
Here's to her long life, so noble and true;
Here's to her great fame her fortune untold;
Here's to her knowledge, priceless as gold;
Here's to her redbreast, her robin and tree;
Here's to her whole bird family;
Here's to her future, long may she live and be;
A loved, cherished member of the LLC"

Jane then gave the club a piece of Burr Oak that had been taken from a beaver dam on the Hine Farm back in 1863. She asked that it become part of the library relic collection. As a part of the entertainment at the conclusion of the party, Elizabeth Britton Willis who grew up not too far from Jane's farm, showed a collection of her pen drawings.

Jane also wrote articles for "The Auk". This is the forerunner of The Audubon Magazine. Her "Observations on the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird" was printed in 1894 in this magazine. Jane was one of four women to write for Amos Butler's "Birds of Indiana in 1898". Jane is also credited for the first to spot a bobolink in Noble County. Jane became an Associate with the American Ornithologists Union. It was this Society that thought enough of Jane that they published a memorial booklet remembering her many accomplishments after her death.

President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson invited Jane to their summer home in Cornish, New Hampshire in September of 1914. They were hosting a costumed bird party and sought Jane's attendance. Sadly, ill health prevented Jane from making the trip to New Hampshire. Jane died less than 2 years later on November 2, 1916 at the age of 85 in Sedan. Both Horatio and Jane are buried in a family plot in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Jane's legacy lives on via her writings as well as through the family. Cynthia's children as well as Jane's children have "done well in life". A great-great grandson, Maynard Hine, still farms a portion of the original Meadow Lark farm. Jane's legacy is of great importance to the natural history of our county as well as our state. Her observations of the birds that have been a part of our area are extremely important to the overall appreciation of the county's natural history. Her contributions to the knowledge and understanding of our natural history cannot be underestimated, for they were priceless.

Jane Hine's grave in the Waterloo Cemetery.

HARRIET MILLER SHOEMAKER 1834-1915

"Hers is the life complete,

Ours, the privilege to take up the torch,

With loving memory of her,

And hopeful courage for the future."

-Rev. Frank Overmyer

Harriet and Emanuel Shoemaker were one of the most prominent and wealthy families in DeKalb County in the late 19th century. Their life story would make a wonderful novel or movie telling the story of the expansion of America and the people who made it possible. Emanuel's family was one of the earliest to arrive in DeKalb County. Emanuel's parents, Henry and Mary Shoemaker, became interested in the county when Mary's brother bought 240 acres in Smithfield Township. In May, 1840, the Shoemaker family left Knox County, Ohio by covered wagon pulled by two sorrel mares. It took four months of travel to cover the few hundred miles from Ohio to Indiana. They arrived in September, 1840. The most serious problem they encountered was the Black Swamp in western Ohio. Mud, water, and thick growth made for slow hard travel. One of the mares became lame while in the swamp as it was not adapted to the mud, roots, corduroy bridges, and flies they encountered.

Emanuel was a young boy of 8 when the family settled on land 3 miles north of Waterloo. He recalled at great length the hard work that was required to actually get the family settled on this land. He wrote about building their home in great detail. The shanty had clapboards of such poor quality that the elements came into the home. Emanuel's mother was left to deal with wet bedding and clothing. They survived that winter of 1840, and life seemed to get a bit better in the spring of 1841. Finances continued to be a problem so Henry returned to Pennsylvania to sell some property there.

The Henry Shoemaker family grew by five more children in the next 12 years. With such a large family involving small children, it had to be quite a hard decision when in April of 1852, Henry with his two older children, Emanuel and Catherine, left home for California via the overland route. They were hoping to strike it rich with gold mining. They had a wagon pulled by two white oxen and met up with a wagon train in Chicago. A man in Chicago became enthralled with their white oxen .He offered his land in Chicago in exchange for them. The Shoemakers refused as they knew they needed their oxen for the trip. Many years

later it was determined that the land they had been offered is where the Chicago Loop is located. Their overland wagon train trip took 5 months with many adventures along the way. The trio settled near Downieville on the Yuba River. Henry and Emanuel set up their gold mining equipment. Catherine did the sewing and ironing for their gold mining neighbors.

Henry suffered from eye trouble and left the mining area a year after arriving. Emanual carried on the mining alone after Catherine married. Her husband was Franklin Francis, a Frenchman from Wisconsin, who was a partner in a prosperous sawmill. The marriage took place within a few months after Henry had returned home to Indiana. Catherine and Franklin soon decided to return to Waterloo. They boarded the ship "Yankee Blade" in San Francisco, but it sunk off the coast near Santa Barbara. The couple lost all their belongings. They boarded another ship which sailed around South America to the east coast taking a railroad back to Waterloo. They built a home at 225 West Walnut Street there.

Emanuel wrote about his loneliness in his diary once both his father and sister had returned to Waterloo. It was obvious from his entries that he was very unhappy. In 1855, Emanuel decided he had had enough and went to San Francisco to begin his journey home. The journey to New York via Panama took 21 days. He had made $3000 during his gold mining days. In later years Emanuel stated often that he felt that the gold mining laid the foundations of his comparative ill-health as well as his success in life.

After Henry Shoemaker's death, Emanuel felt that his mother needed to travel. He took her back to Ohio. It was this trip that would change Emanuel's life. It was in Ohio that Emanuel met Harriet Jane Miller of Stark County, Ohio. Harriet was the 8th child of Henry and Mary Weaver Miller. She was born on Easter Sunday, April 19, 1834. The Miller family lived in a relatively lavish environment. The family home was a farm a mile south of Canal Fulton on the Tuscarawas River. Harriet would have been exposed to a variety of people with some uncommon ideas who used the canal. As a young adult, Harriet may have conversed with these travelers gaining insights into the world beyond her immediate environment. Her father had been raised in Pennsylvania while her mother grew up in a wealthy non-slave owning household in Virginia. The family was strong opponents of slavery. Harriet probably had many family discussions regarding slavery as this was the period of time just before the start of the Civil War. Harriet had experienced the finest educational and cultural opportunities that her family could provide her.

Emanuel and Harriet corresponded for over a year. Emanuel was a prolific writer so the letters had to have shared extensive feelings and knowledge of what life was like in DeKalb County as well as what she could expect from her new husband. They must have had many mutual interests which came to light during this year long correspondence. While Emanuel had the life experiences with world travels, Harriet was educated with social abilities. The couple must have felt that they complemented each other. They were married on September 16, 1857 in the Franklin House in Canton, Ohio. Their honeymoon was to Pittsburgh returning to their home in Indiana after a few weeks. Harriet may have been shocked at what she found awaiting her in DeKalb County. It has been said that conditions here were at least one generation behind the comforts she had enjoyed in Ohio. Emanuel had to have been sensitive to his bride's needs as he began a plan to build a better life for them in DeKalb County. It is said that Harriet never became homesick as she had to realize what her husband was doing with her in mind.

Harriet established a home of love and caring. She worked hard to make it so. The women of the area became her friends. Harriet was viewed as being very congenial and capable by those who got to know her. It was said that Harriet's home offered great hospitality not only upon her friends, but neighbors and strangers alike. She was most generous in the ways she offered help, care, and friendship. It is probable that one of her

best friends was her sister-in-law Catherine Francis. The women could converse of different places and ideas thus sharing like opinions.

Harriet became a mother in the summer of 1858 with the birth of a son. Henry Douglas was born August 27, 1858. The summer after the Civil War began at Fort Sumter in 1861, Harriet and her family moved into a new home. This was a small frame house. In this home, Harriet gave birth to a daughter May and another son Scott.

At the time of the Civil War, Harriet's brother-in-law, John Henry Shoemaker, became famous for what he did in downtown Waterloo. The first soldiers to head for battle from the Waterloo depot were eager to depart. John wanted to offer a final farewell salute to his friends and neighbors. Captain Clark's Company was to leave Waterloo at 3:55PM. John had the town cannon placed in the middle of the main street north of the railroad track. John fired off two rounds. The third round was saved for the moment the train left the Waterloo Depot. The cannon was heavily charged with wadded green leather shavings from the nearby tannery. This was placed within a few inches of the muzzle. Some local citizens, when seeing this, said to John that they wouldn't fire that cannon off for $500. These citizens proved to be correct, the shavings proved to be too much as the cannon exploded when fired. It was a terrible explosion scattering cannon pieces in all directions. John was hit by a huge piece causing a large incision in his right side just below his ribs. It severed his spinal cord killing him instantly. His funeral was held in his sister's home on West Walnut Street. The first grave in the Waterloo Cemetery was his. He earned a place in Indiana Civil War trivia as being the only Hoosier civilian killed during the entire war.

Union soldiers marching to Waterloo depot.

By the fall of 1874 Emanuel's hard work enabled the family to move into a larger brick home that soon became known throughout the township as the Shoemaker Homestead. The Shoemakers now owned 520 acres of land. The Fort Wayne News Sentinel on June 26, 1926 wrote an article identifying "fine estates in the Waterloo area". The "estates" were written about as being "showplaces of northern Indiana". The estates featured in the article were: the Francis Homestead in Waterloo, Freeman Kelley Place, the E.R. Shoemaker Homestead, and the H. D. Boozer farm.

Shoemaker family and house.

Shoemaker Homestead 2010

Harriet and Emanuel became prominent citizens of DeKalb County through their civic service as well as the many ways they helped both directly and indirectly their friends and neighbors. Emanuel was a DeKalb County commissioner serving during the time the construction of a new court house in Auburn was being discussed.

Harriet and Emanuel entertained noted lecturers on Liberalism who came to speak either in Waterloo or in their Shoemaker Homestead. They introduced their friends and neighbors to a variety of people with various points of view. Harriet's sponsoring of such events had to have added to the educational and social concerns of the community. The exposure to new ways of thinking and viewing topics such as politics, religion, and social concerns promoted an understanding and awareness of life beyond the boundaries of the county to local citizens.

Harriet impressed upon her children the love of learning as well as the importance of education. Her eldest son Henry attended Valparaiso Normal before returning to help Emanuel at home. May became a teacher after graduating from Methodist Episcopal College in Fort Wayne. Scott lived in the home that had been built by his father for him which was just south of the Homestead. All of Harriet's grandchildren attended college with one Harrietta, daughter of May, earning a Master of Arts degree in 1909 from the University of Michigan.

As the Shoemakers aged, Emanuel built a town home in Waterloo. Harriet and Emanuel moved to the home on the corner of Center and Lincoln Streets giving the Homestead homes and buildings to Henry and Scott and their families. The town home was a large white Victorian house with a modest barn behind the structure. It was in this home that Harriet became a widow on her 46th wedding anniversary. Emanuel suffered a hemorrhage of the stomach and died on September 16, 1903.

Harriet would live another 12 years in their town home. During these years Harriet continued to put her family first while also being of service to others in the community. She was surrounded by many long-time friends. It is said that her life was quiet and unassuming. Harriet lived what she believed; much is expected of those who are given much. She led a life that was helpful to others.

For many years Harriet suffered with rheumatism and was forced to live quietly in her Waterloo home. She lived with her daughter May as a constant companion for the last 7 years of her life. Harriet died in her home in Waterloo just before midnight on December 21, 1915. The funeral was held in the home on December 24th. Harriet and Emanuel are buried side by side in the Waterloo Cemetery. They had been pioneers in

developing DeKalb County. The Shoemakers became examples of what it took to live what has become known as the "American Dream". Emanuel with his hard work and vision along with Harriet's education and social awareness managed to build an important legacy. Their community would benefit from their generosity of sharing what they had and the education they brought to the area.

Shoemaker Family grave site in Waterloo Cemetery. Emanuel and Harriet as well as other family members buried here.

1846-1928 CARRIE MYERS FANNING

"Mother" of Auburn Chapter,

No. 103

Order of the Eastern Star

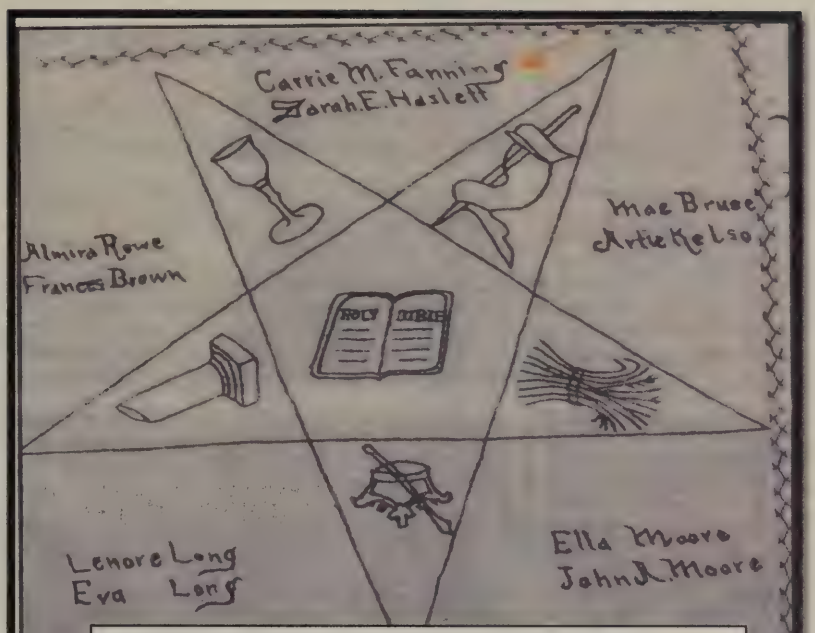
Carrie Myers was Canadian born. Her family welcomed their new baby daughter while living in Trenton, Ontario, Canada in 1846. Carrie's husband, Fred Walter Fanning, was a Canadian as well. He was born at Belleville, Ontario, Canada on October 6, 1841. Fred graduated at the age of 16 from the Commercial College of Coburg, Ontario.

Carrie and Fred were married July 31, 1862. Their two sons were born while the couple lived in Ontario. Eventually, the couple moved to Ann Arbor where Fred took up the study of medicine at the University of Michigan. He graduated with highest honors a year later. The couple then moved to Beaver Dam, Ohio when Dr. Fanning took up practice. In 1869, the couple decided to move to Butler, Indiana. It is reported that his Butler practice was a busy one with many deliveries of babies. Citizens felt he was a "good doctor". It is said that among the poor and needy, Dr. Fanning was a "ray of sunshine." Presidents Harrison, McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt appointed him as examiner of the pension board following the Civil War.

Carrie often went with Fred on his medical calls. The couple would ride horseback throughout the eastern areas of DeKalb County. Horseback riding became a passion for Carrie. When political campaigns wanted torch light parades, Carrie organized and commanded a troop of women horseback riders. They became noted for the perfection that the riders and animals carried out doing different maneuvers and drills during a parade. The women did all of this while carrying lit torches.

Carrie became very involved with many fraternal organizations in Butler. She was a presiding officer of both the Order of Eastern Star and of the Pythian Sisters. Carrie's leadership and organizational skills were recognized at the highest level of these groups. She served 2 years as the Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star of Indiana. Later, for 15 years she was this organization's grand treasurer. In addition to these grand positions, she also officiated as the Grand Chief of the Grand Temple of the order of Pythian Sisters of Indiana. Carrie became a member of the supreme chapters of both these organizations. In this capacity, Carrie traveled the United States as a delegate to the supreme conventions.

It was during her time as Grand Worthy Matron of Indiana that Carrie organized the Auburn Chapter of the Eastern Star. For this, she has since been called the "mother" of the Auburn chapter.



Butler Church of Christ 1895 quilt block. Carrie's signature within Eastern Star block.

While her work in these fraternal organizations took a great deal of her time, Carrie was also very active in the Butler Christian Church and in Republican politics. Carrie was President of the Ladies Group at the Church of Christ for about 14 years. Fred and Carrie had been charter members of the church in 1870. Her husband was also active in groups as he was a charter member of the DeKalb County Medical Society, Wabash Railroad Surgeon's Association, and the International Association of Railway Surgeons.

During WWI, Judge Link appointed seven members to the Council of National Defense. Carrie Fanning was the only female appointed to the board. She served with J. McClellan from Auburn, F. Nash of Garrett, Herman Boozer from Waterloo, E. D. Case of Fairfield Township, with Col. Kuhlman serving as the military representative. Unfortunately, Carrie could not serve out her term due to ill health.

In addition to being very busy with all these groups and her church, Carrie was the mother of 2 sons, Charles and Frank. The Fanning family made their home at 156 Oak Street in Butler. Dr. Fanning's office was at the corner of Broadway and North. Both buildings were very much in the hub of life in Butler.

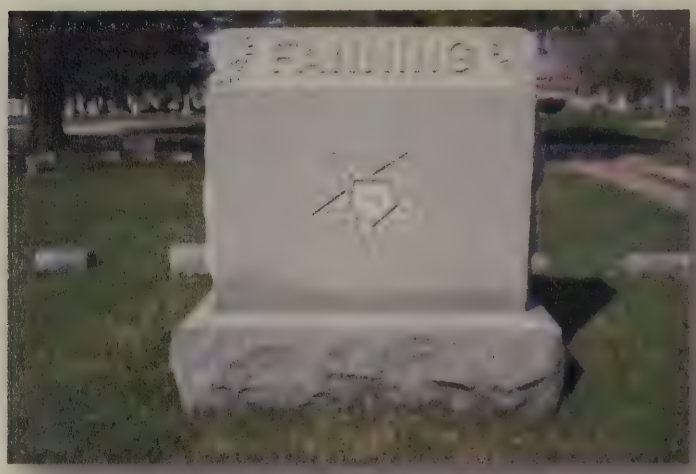
April 29, 1927 brought great sorrow to Carrie in the form of an accident involving Charles. Charles was 61 years old when he drove his Ford roadster onto the railroad tracks in Waterloo obviously not seeing nor hearing the train. The engine hit his car and rolled it over and over down the tracks. Charles' body landed on the engine. The crossing where the accident happened was adjoining the home where Charles was living. This was extremely troubling for the family to accept as they felt he lived close enough to the tracks to be aware of the traffic. Charles' brother, Dr. Frank Fanning, was notified and came to Waterloo immediately from his Butler home. Carrie was 81 years old and was "greatly shocked" on being told of her son's death. Frank brought his elderly mother to Charles' home in Waterloo where she stayed until the funeral.

Carrie's son, Dr. Frank Fanning.

Many feel that Charles' death became too much for Carrie. She died less than a year later on February 14, 1928. She had been bedfast for 11 weeks before dying. It was thought at the time that Carrie had been "one of the most prominent residents of Butler". In addition to her son, Dr. Frank Fanning, Carrie was survived by a sister Jennie Moody of West 7th Street in Auburn and a brother Curtis W. Myers also of Auburn. Both

Jennie and Curtis lived in the home of their nephew Dr. J. E. Graham.

Carrie's funeral was attended by a large number of friends. "No other woman in Butler was more widely known and highly respected. She was a woman of more than ordinary ability", so stated her obituary. Carrie was buried next to her husband in the Butler Cemetery east of town.



Fanning Burial Site

Butler Cemetery

old section, east side

Butler, Indiana

EVALINE SOPHRONIA HADSELL SHEFFER 1850-1937

Founder of

St. Joe's Ladies Literary Club

And St. Joe Church of Christ

James Hadsell and Mary Abel's families were some of the most important of the early pioneers of DeKalb County. It was probably inevitable that these two young people would meet and marry. James became a minister of the Disciples Church where he accomplished much in the religious development of the area. Mary and James spent 40 years of their adult lives traveling throughout DeKalb County as well as the surrounding counties establishing churches in various communities. Elder Hadsell and Mary became parents of Carson in 1848, Eva was born in 1850, and Cammilus joined the family in 1854.

The children were probably use to moving many times in their lives as their parents went to the various communities. Sometime before 1870 Elder Hadsell was in Kendallville establishing another church. One of Kendallville's citizens was Banner Sheffer. His nephew, Barton Sheffer, had came to visit his uncle from Ontario, Ohio and grew to like the area. Eventually, Barton moved to Kendallville by 1870. It is possible that Eva Hadsell age 20 met Barton Sheffer age 24 for the first time when both of them were living in Kendallville.

A few years later, Elder Hadsell , with his family, moved to Waterloo. Eva went on to teach school in Waterloo school. It was noted that she attended a county wide Teachers Institute in 1874. It was practical that Eva continued to live with her parents. She must have also continued to see Barton Sheffer. It was reported in the Waterloo Press that a "matrimonial epidemic broke out in the Waterloo schools last week, carrying off two of the teachers, Miss Eva Hadsell and Miss Ella Smith. The happy man in the first case was Mr. Sheffer from Ontario, Ohio". The couple was married by Elder M.M. Gleason on Thursday, March 23, 1876 in the bride's home.

Barton's training was in medicine. He began his education by studying with a practicing physician. Later he entered Western University graduating in 1877 just a year after his marriage to Eva. The couple began his practice in Antwerp, Ohio; then returned to Kendallville. In 1882, Barton and Eva moved to St. Joe, Indiana where they spent the rest of their lives. Barton's abilities as a physician were highly ranked in each of the villages in which he had practiced.

By the time the couple settled in St. Joe they were parents of two children. Lina was born in Cleveland, Ohio in December of 1876 with Ray Hadsell Sheffer born April 1878 in Antwerp. The couple purchased a home in St. Joe and Barton established his practice. The Sheffers lived in the north portion of the house. Doors could separate the home into two separate areas. Barton had his office in the south section. Later, he would move his office into a downtown St. Joe location. For a time the Sheffers rented out an apartment within the home. Albert and Madonna Wade as well as Bill and Martha Quance were two couples that rented from Sheffers.

Eva and Barton's St. Joe home. 1882 and 2010

Barton became a member of the first DeKalb County Medical Society. The requirements for membership were that the doctor had to have graduated in medicine from a respectable medical school and was of good moral and professional standing. Barton not only was a physician, he also sold drugs as well as items such as pencils and writing paper from his office. Barton also sold diamond jewelry from his downtown office building. Each night he would stack jewelry trays in a small cart, pull it back to his home. Once there he put the trays beside his bed for safe keeping. The next morning he'd load the trays on the cart and pull it back to his doctor's office.

Dr. Sheffer's downtown St. Joe office. Notice cart beside the building.

While Barton had been raised as a Baptist, he joined the Church of Christ in Kendallville where Elder Hadsell had established that church. In St. Joe, Eva and Barton became charter members of the Church of Christ. They both became very active in the church and its activities, giving of their time, talents, and means to furthering the church within the St. Joe Community.

Eva gave birth to another son, Otto Craig, in January of 1885. Just a year later, Eva went back to her teaching profession. She was teaching a select primary school having 25 students. It is reported that Eva attained a "high standing among teachers of that time". She was known to be interested in educational matters throughout her life.

Barton and Eva were active members of their church as well as many civic organizations within the community. Barton was a founding member of St. Joe Lodge No. 400, Knights of Pythias which was organized in February of 1894. In December of 1898 St. Joe petitioned for incorporation as a town. The Sheffers were known as earnest supporters of every good movement. So, it can be assumed that they actively endorsed this petition. In 1914 Barton was elected as the town clerk of St. Joe.

Eva was a charter member of the Ladies Literary Club. She was their very first Vice President. The club met weekly in the afternoons. At the end of the first year, it was decided to meet in the evenings each week. By the end of the second year, the club members decided that all work and no play was not good for them because it "would cause them to cease being young and gay". They decided to put on dramas. Some of these were presented to the public at the Opera House in St. Joe. Eva served as President in 1898-99 and again in 1907-1908.

St. Joe Ladies Literary Club. Eva back row far right. Daughter Lina front row in dark dress.

Eva's "Loyal Workers Class from church as well as community friends planned a surprise party to celebrate Barton and Eva's 50th Wedding Anniversary in March of 1926. While the couple was at church and Bible school, the friends numbering about 47 gathered at the Sheffer home. Each guest brought a basket filled with food and gifts for the happy couple. It was said that Barton and Eva were "pleasantly surprised". The day was spent in sharing conversations with good friends. Many family members attended the event from Angola, Hicksville, and Fort Wayne.

Sheffer's 50th wedding anniversary.

About four years later in 1930, Barton suffered a cerebral hemorhage. The 1930 Census shows Eva's son, Craig, his wife Grace, and their son Basil were living with Eva and Barton. Perhaps their help was needed in caring for Barton after his stroke. He died a year later on January 5, 1931 in St. Joe. Barton was 83 years old. Rev. J.N. Scholes of the St. Joe Church of Christ officiated at the funeral and burial in Alton Cemetery. Barton was remembered as a "fine community spirit". "He was always interested in good things being done". Finally, Dr. Sheffer was recognized for being a "rich contribution to St. Joe".

Eva continued to live in their St. Joe home. At the time of Barton's death, two of their children had already died. Lina, who married John Knight, had died in 1918. Ray died in 1905 at the age of 17 years. Craig was named executor of his father's estate. He lived five more years dying on June 3, 1936. By 1936, Eva had lost her husband and all three of her children. Eva was now 86 years old and alone except for the many friends she had through her church and the Ladies Literary Club.

Coburn Corners Church was the oldest church in the county. It was founded by Eva's parents. When the church celebrated its 97th Anniversary on February 22, 1934, they chose to honor the only living children of its charter members. Eva and Wilmot Coburn were so honored. Each one was given a pink carnation and asked to sit upon the platform during part of the church service on that day. The minister, H.K. Schondelmayer, paid tribute to these two parishioners in his address. At the conclusion, the minister gave

Eva a huge basket of flowers that were from her Sunday school class, "The Loyal Workers". One of Eva's favorite songs, "Face to Face" was then sung by Mark Williams.

First Church in DeKalb County, Coburn Corner's Church of Christ organized in 1835

Eva was 86 years at the time of her death. This occurred in her St. Joe home on February 16, 1937. She was but one day shy of her 87th birthday. She was survived by three grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Services were held in her beloved Christian Church with J. N. Scholes officiating. She was buried beside Barton in Alton Cemetery. Her Loyal Workers Class of Church of Christ offered this tribute to Eva, " In the passing of Mrs. Eva Sheffer, for over fifty years a charter member of the St. Joe Church of Christ, the church and Bible School of her affiliation feel keenly the loss of one whose consistent faith and loyal service can well be pointed to as exemplary attributes of a long and useful life. Of unquestionable integrity in her implicit faith, plain of speech, and, by her own admission, not exempt from human errors, her generous and untiring Christian labor remained an unruffled calm, as she allowed no petty enmities to become rooted along the pathway of her long walk through life. Much is due our courageous pioneers of religious labor—and all who profit most by this sterling example of Christian consistency mourn deeply the passing of Mrs. Eva Sheffer".

Alton Cemetery, State Road 101, St. Joe, Indiana

SARAH OBER BRECHBILL 1839-1908

Many of the remarkable women of DeKalb County were not doctors, teachers, or leaders of community organizations. These women were the backbone of a fledging county. They were the wives, mothers, helpmates, and friends that fostered the sense of family and community within their homes, churches, and neighborhoods. Such was Sarah Ober Brechbill.

Sarah was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania on August 12, 1839. She lived in this county until she was 15 years old. At that time, her parents John and Nancy Bechtel Ober decided to move further west to Stark County, Ohio. The same year Sarah moved to Stark County, Jacob Brechbill and his parents Martin and Barbara Guyer Brechbill also moved to that county from Pennsylvania. Jacob helped his father farm. Apparently Sarah and Jacob during this time met one another. Five years later on February 3, 1859 Jacob and Sarah were married. Jacob rented land and began farming on his own in Stark County.

Sarah and Jacob became parents for the first time 1860 when their son Martin was born. Another son was born to this couple in 1862. They named him John. Jacob decided to make a trip further west in the same year. He came to DeKalb County, Indiana and purchased land in Keyser Township. Jacob returned to Ohio where a daughter Nancy was born in 1864.

Jacob and Sarah and their three small children moved to DeKalb County in 1864. They settled on a farm two and a half miles northwest of Garrett in Keyser Township. Jacob continued to clear his land. Eventually he would own and farm 370 acres. In addition to farming, Jacob had learned the trade of shingle making which he followed until he died.

As a typical wife and mother during the early years of our county, Sarah was Jacob's partner in the work that had to be done in order to not only survive but prosper. This is exactly what this couple did, they prospered. The family grew just as they ownership of land grew. Elizabeth was born in 1866, Sarah followed in 1868, 1871 found Mary joining the family, Cora followed in 1874 and Claude in 1882. Cora and Claude would not live more than a year after their birth.

Sarah and Jacob were very much involved in an organization being formed called the Christian Union. The Brechbills were members of the Brethren In Christ church, but they wished to have a place where other groups of believers could gather as well as their Brethren in Christ. In 1882, Sarah and Jacob deeded a portion of their land to the Christian Union for the very purpose of building a church as well as providing ground for a cemetery. The church was named the Christian Union Church. Sarah and Jacob were also forerunners of the concept of Sunday Schools within the county. The idea of a Sunday school was a new one and frowned upon by many in those days. Jacob and Sarah were pioneers clearing the land as well as pioneers for spiritual development by initiating a Sunday school and giving land for a church welcoming many believers.

Christian Union Church - CR. 7 North of State Road 8.

The family grew and the children married. Martin married Coloma Smith, but died at the early age of 33 due to typhoid fever. He left four children. John married Henrietta Davidson and they had nine children. Nancy married David Shirk and became the mother of six children. Elizabeth married Henry Davidson giving birth to four children. Sarah married Daniel Wagner and was the mother of four children. Three children were both to Mary and her husband David Yarde. All the children and their families continued to live in the Christian Union area except for Nancy who moved to Kansas. Jacob built two brick homes for his children, and they still stand today.

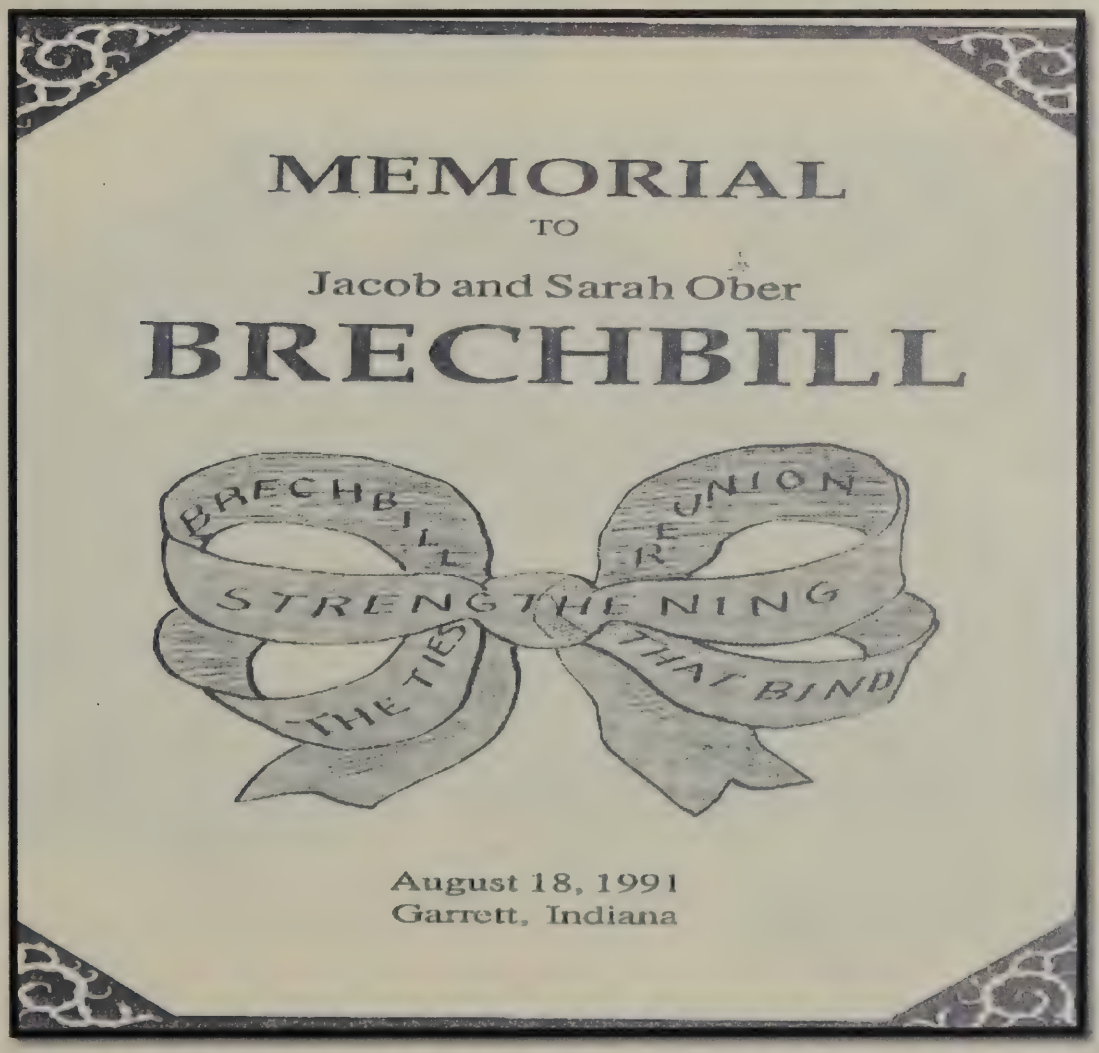
55009 The Brechbill-Davidson House is listed in the National Register and was constructed in 1889 by Jacob Brechbill. Henry Davidson added the rear wing in 1908.

Sarah as the helpmate and partner with Jacob raised six children with thirty grandchildren adding to the family "clan". They cleared and farmed almost 400 acres, and gave land and support to the development of the Christian Union Church and Cemetery. Jacob suffered with stomach and liver cancer for almost two years, bedridden for the last seven months of his life. Sarah had to have been his main caregiver during

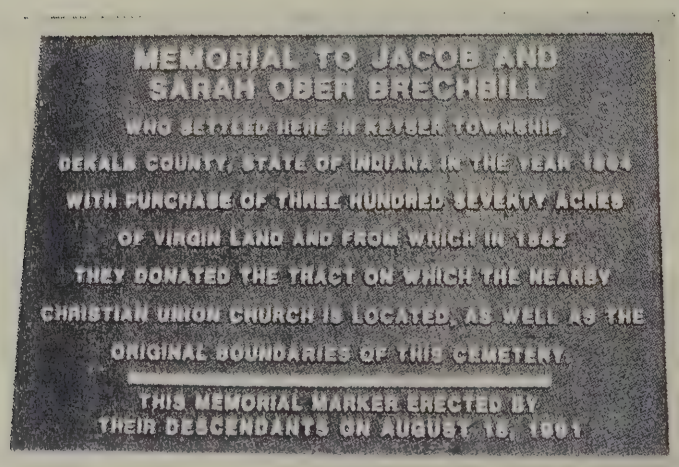
these years. He died on February 21, 1902. Jacob was 69 years old. Sarah lived for an additional six years until she died of typhoid fever on November 2, 1908. She too was 69 years old at the time of her death.

The family continued to get-together with one another after the deaths of their parents. Regularly scheduled reunions started in the early 1950's with the John Brechbill family initiating these events. The reunion held in 1976 drew the largest attendance of family members as they gathered at the Christian Union Church where three generations of Brechbills had worshipped. After that reunion, the pressures of time and miles kept the family from gathering on a regular basis. A group of Brechbills met in August of 1990 hoping to plan a reunion. The idea developed into a plan not only for a reunion, but a memorial dedicated to the memory of the good works that Sarah and Jacob accomplished acknowledging their gift of land for the Christian Union Church.

The group gathered names of Brechbills now scattered throughout 26 states as well as Canada, Guam, Hong Kong, and Kenya. It was said that there was a "golden cord woven binding the Brechbills together". A memorial plaque was designed and created and the family came for the dedication. A memorial ceremony was held with a written program given to each family member. In it this was written, "Jacob and Sarah, on this eighteenth day of August 1991, we, your descendants, salute you and express our gratitude for the priceless legacy you left us. May we, in serving the God you served, serve our day and generation well". Five generations had gathered to pay tribute to Jacob and Sarah who" by their courage, hard work, and Christian lives left a worthy example for us to follow." Surely the good works of Sarah and Jacob did follow them.

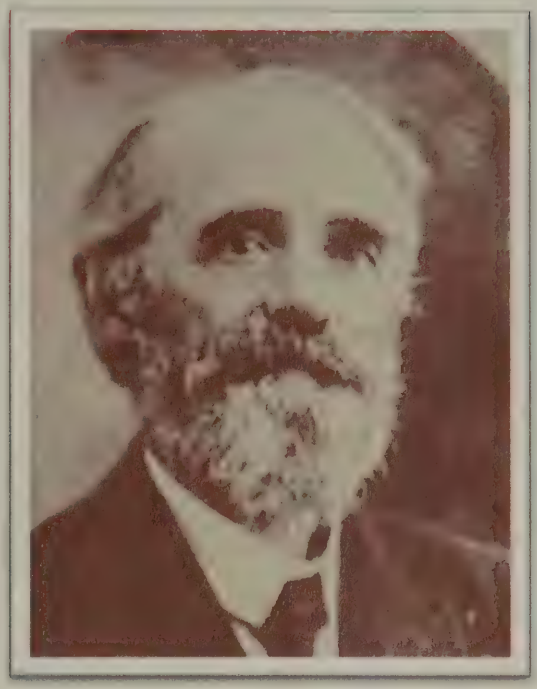


With this in mind, it can easily be said that Sarah was truly a remarkable woman of DeKalb County.



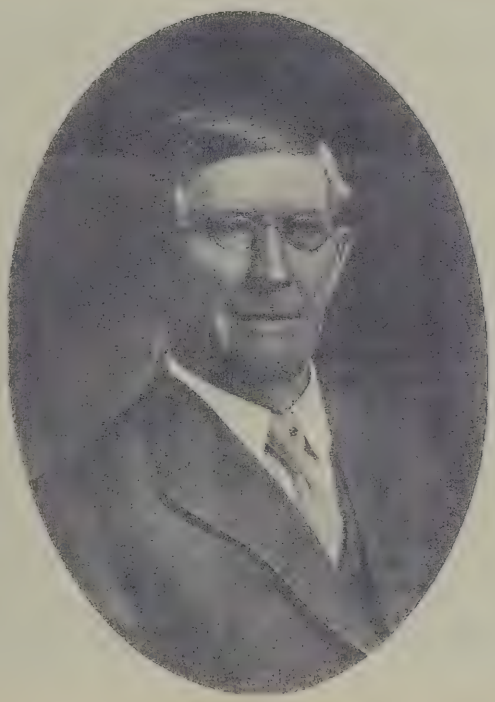
Sarah and Jacob Brechbill gravestone in Christian Union Church Cemetery. Located along first road beside the church.

Their Husbands



William McIntosh

- Superintendent DeKalb County Schools
- GAR Veteran
- Wisconsin Vol. 22nd Infantry
- Editor of "Biographical Sketches of DeKalb County"
- Husband of Anna Cosper



Moses Willis

- Richland township farmer
- Waterloo Retailer
- Auburn Retailer of Notions
- Husband of Elizabeth Britton
- Father of Marion, Lewis, Nettie
- Father-in-Law of Will Eckhart
- GAR Veteran
- 44th Indiana Vol.

Photo of Civil War soldiers from DeKalb County. January 1, 1913. Photo taken on the west steps of the Methodist Church located on West Seventh Street, Auburn. Forty Eight soldiers were in attendance.

Soldiers of Note:

Soldier #38 is Moses Willis

Soldier # 43 is William McIntosh

John Leasure

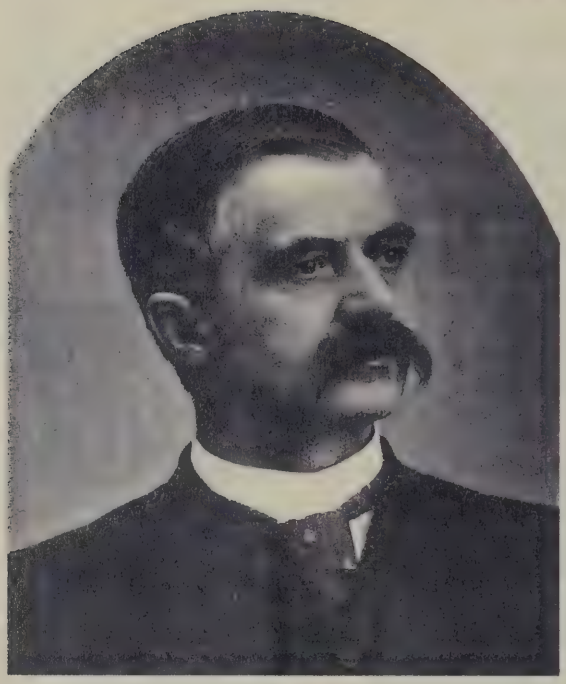
- 3rd Owner Auburn City Hardware
- Editor of "Groundhog Magazine"
- Widely known as "Groundhog John"
- Husband of Dr. Lida Powers Leasure

Charles Eckhart

- Founder Eckhart Carriage Company
- Founder Auburn Automobile Company
- 104th Pennsylvania Volunteers
- Battle of Fair Oaks
- Grand Army Republic
- Donor of
  - Eckhart Public Library
  - Auburn YMCA
  - Eckhart Park

David Swarts

- 1st Asst. Surgeon
- 100th Indiana Volunteers
- Grand Army Republic
- Auburn Physician



John L. Davis

- 2nd Owner Pioneer Hardware Store
- Supported Detroit, Eel River, and Illinois And B & O Railroad Construction
- Helped bring Natural Gas to Auburn
- 1st Board of Directors of DeKalb Fair Board
- 1st Treasurer of Fair Board
- DeKalb County Treasurer
- Member DeKalb County Lodge 214
- Member Elks Lodge

Egbert Mott

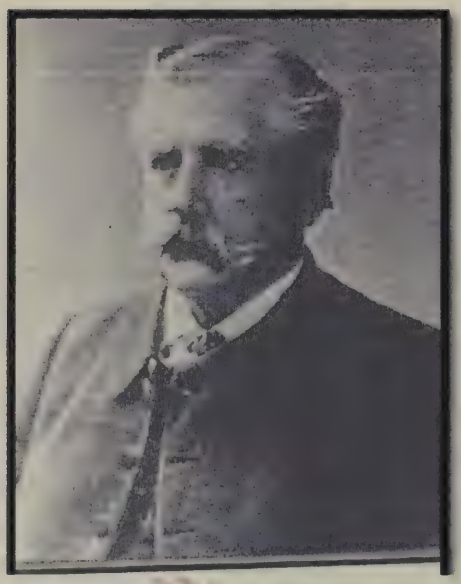
- First Lawyer in Auburn
- Prosecuting Attorney 1850-1852
- Judge of Court of Common Pleas for DeKalb And Steuben Counties 1856-1860
- Builder of "Greenhurst"

Horatio Sheldon Hine

- Teacher
- Farmer
- Layed out town of "Lawrence" which had to be renamed "Sedan
- Erected Steam Sawmill
- Donor of lots to settlers

Emanuel Shoemaker

- Forty-Niner Gold Miner
- Prolific Writer
- Farmed 500 acres in Smithfield Township
- Builder of "Shoemaker Homestead"
- Brother of only civilian of Indiana killed During Civil War
- DeKalb County Commissioner

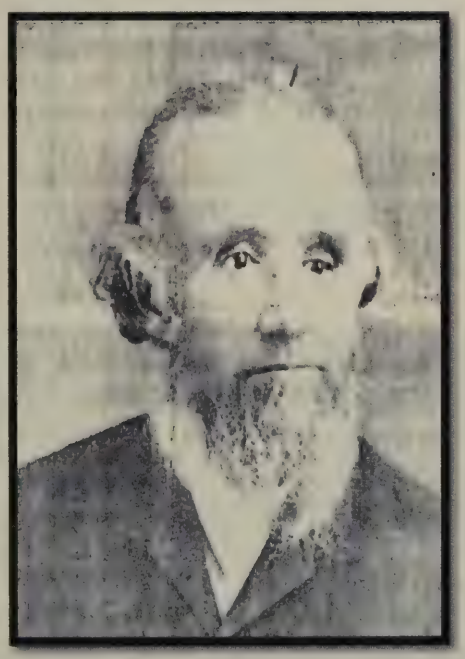


Fred Fanning

- Butler Physician
- Charter Member Forest Lodge 400 Masonic Lodge
- Leader Sampson Horse Drill Team
- Grand Patron of Grand Chapter of the State of Indiana
- 32nd Degree Mason
- Member Knights of Pythias

Barton Sheffer

- St. Joe Physician
- Charter Member St. Joe Church of Christ
- Charter Member DeKalb Medical Society
- Founding Member St. Joe Lodge No. 600
- St. Joe Town Clerk 1914



Jacob Brechbill

- Farmer Keyser Township
- Charter Member Christian Union Church
- Donor of land for Church and Cemetery
- Initiated Sunday School

Where did they come from?

Indiana:

Spring Hill..... Lida Powers Leasure

DeKalb County..... Anna Cosper McIntosh

Evaline Hadsell Sheffer

Ohio:

Holmes County..... Elizabeth Britton Willis

Stark County..... Harriet Miller Shoemaker

Sarah Ober Brechbill

Lake County..... Jane Brooks Hine

Wayne County..... Barbara Ashleman Eckhart

Lorain County..... Vesta Ward Swarts

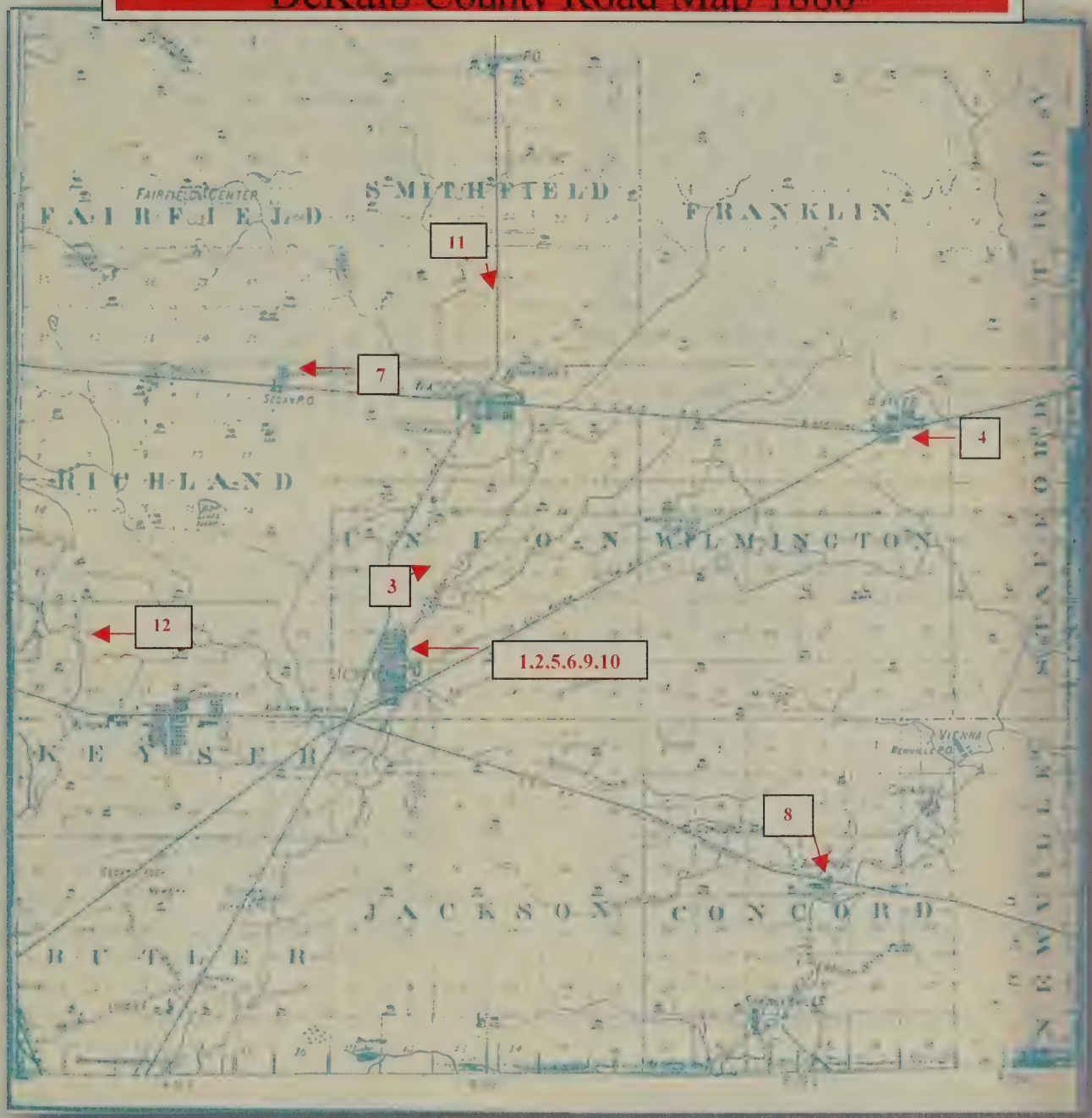
Erie County, New York..... Louisa Haunenstein Davis

Ontario, Canada..... Carrie Myers Fanning

Lancashire, England..... Mary Winterbottom Mott

Where the "Remarkable Ladies" lived in DeKalb County

DeKalb County Road Map 1880



1. Lida Leasure
2. Elizabeth Willis
3. Mary Mott
4. Carrie Fanning
5. Barbara Eckhart
6. Vesta Swarts
7. Jane Hine
8. Eva Sheffer
9. Anna McIntosh
10. Louisa Davis
11. Harriet Shoemaker
12. Sarah Brechbill

Where are they buried?

Woodlawn....Auburn

Barbara and Charles Eckhart

Vesta and David Swarts

Anna and William McIntosh

Lida and John Leasure

Mott....Auburn

Mary and Egbert Mott

Butler Cemetery

Carrie and Fred Fanning

Evergreen....Auburn

Louisa and John Davis

*John and Maria Aschleman (Barbara Eckhart's parents)

Alton...Rt. 101, St. Joe

Eva and Barton Sheffer

Christian Union Church, Garrett

Jacob and Sarah Brechbill

Waterloo Cemetery

Harriet and Emmanuel Shoemaker

Jane and Horatio Hine

QUILT BLOCKS...Can you match the block to the correct lady?

A: Soldier's Wedding

B: Aurora

C: Gold Rush

D: Hearth and Home

E: Eva's Delight

F: Rising In Stars

G: London Square

H: Cardinal

I: Curtains into Clothes

J: Schoolhouse

K: Army Stars

L: Peony

Answers on "Acknowledgements" page.

Remarkable Women Quilt

Each woman contributed to the overall development of DeKalb County. Each block in their honor contributes to the overall story of the quilt. Just as each block is necessary for a complete quilt, each woman was necessary to fully develop DeKalb County. We thank each woman for their remarkable contributions and the lives they lived.

Callie Britton and Edward Zonker about 1875 in Corunna, DeKalb County

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